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(54) **NATIVE VALVE REPAIR DEVICES AND PROCEDURES**

(71) Applicant: **Edwards Lifesciences Corporation**, Irvine, CA (US)

(72) Inventors: **Asher L. Metchik**, Hawthorne, CA (US); **Gregory Scott Tyler, II**, Costa Mesa, CA (US); **Matthew T. Winston**, Aliso Viejo, CA (US); **Sergio Delgado**, Irvine, CA (US); **Lauren R. Freschauf**, Mission Viejo, CA (US); **Eric Robert Dixon**, Villa Park, CA (US); **Alexander J. Siegel**, Costa Mesa, CA (US)

(73) Assignee: **Edwards Lifesciences Corporation**, Irvine, CA (US)

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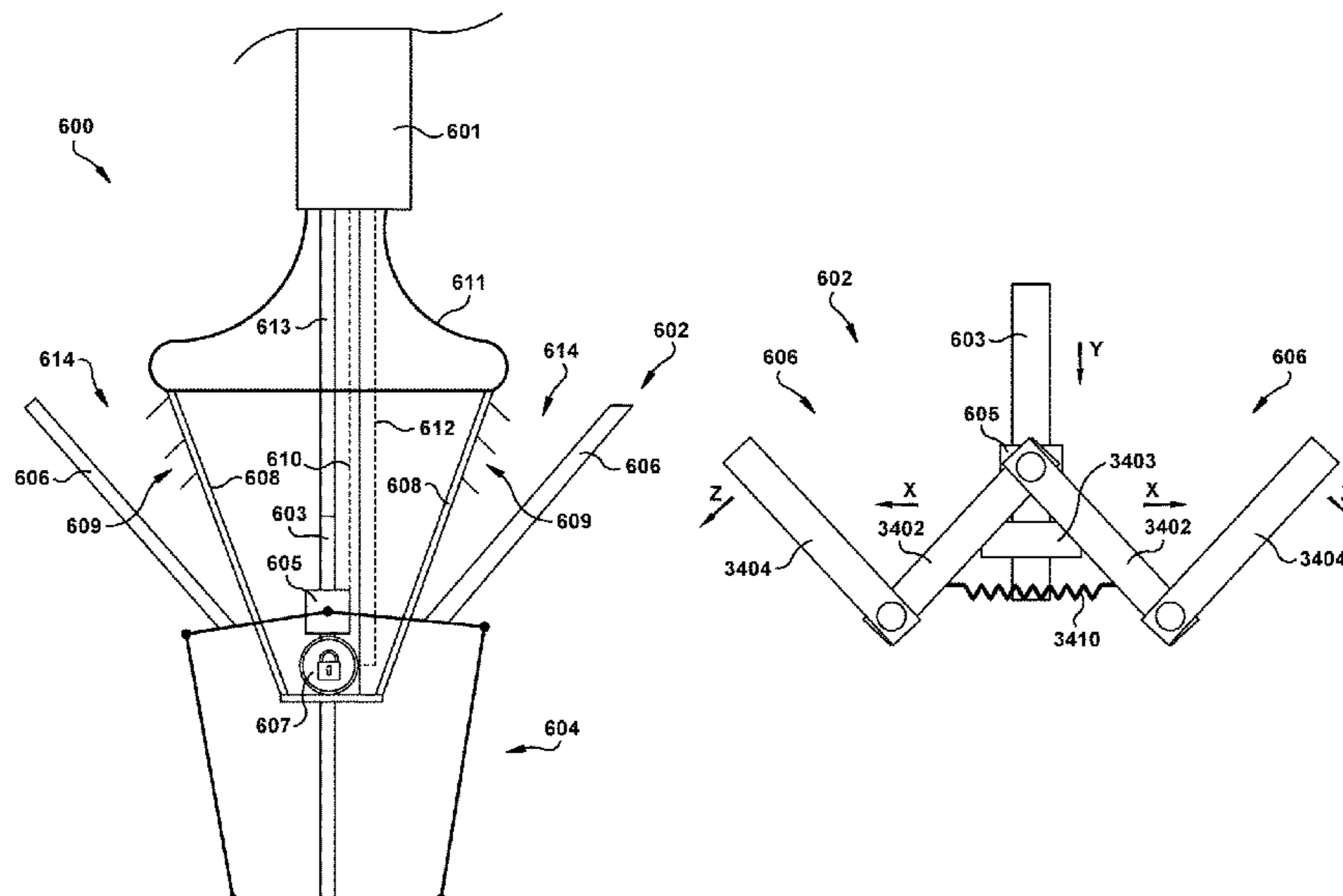
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Primary Examiner — Suzette J Gherbi
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Thomas C. Richardson

(57) **ABSTRACT**
A system for implanting a repair device onto a native valve of a natural heart to repair the native valve of a patient during a non-open-heart procedure. The system includes a pair of paddles and a pair of gripping members. The paddles are movable between an open position and a closed position. The paddles and the gripping members are configured to attach to the native valve of the patient. The paddles are biased to the closed position, latched to the gripping members in the closed position, maintained in the closed position by a threaded connection, or otherwise maintained in the closed position.

18 Claims, 73 Drawing Sheets



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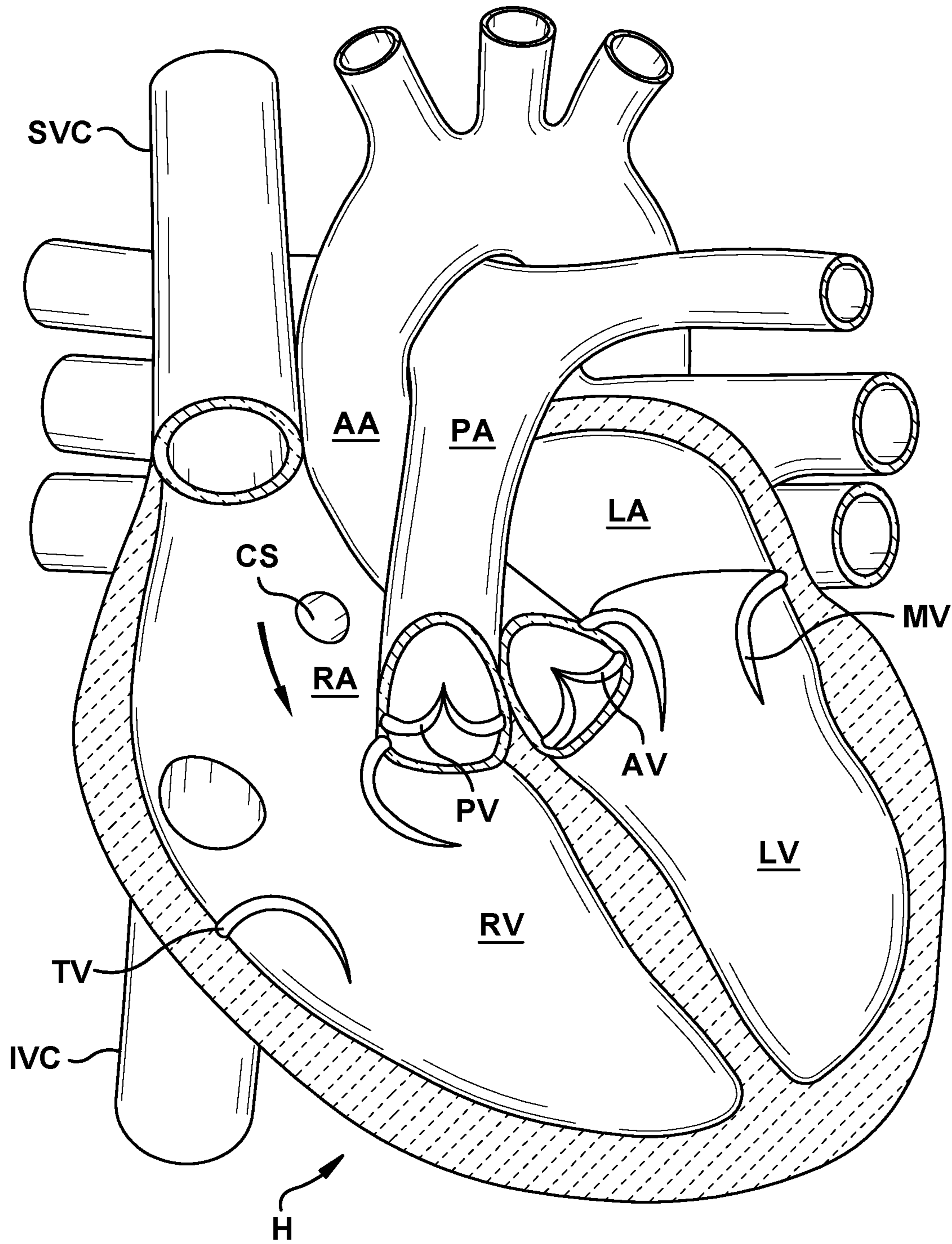


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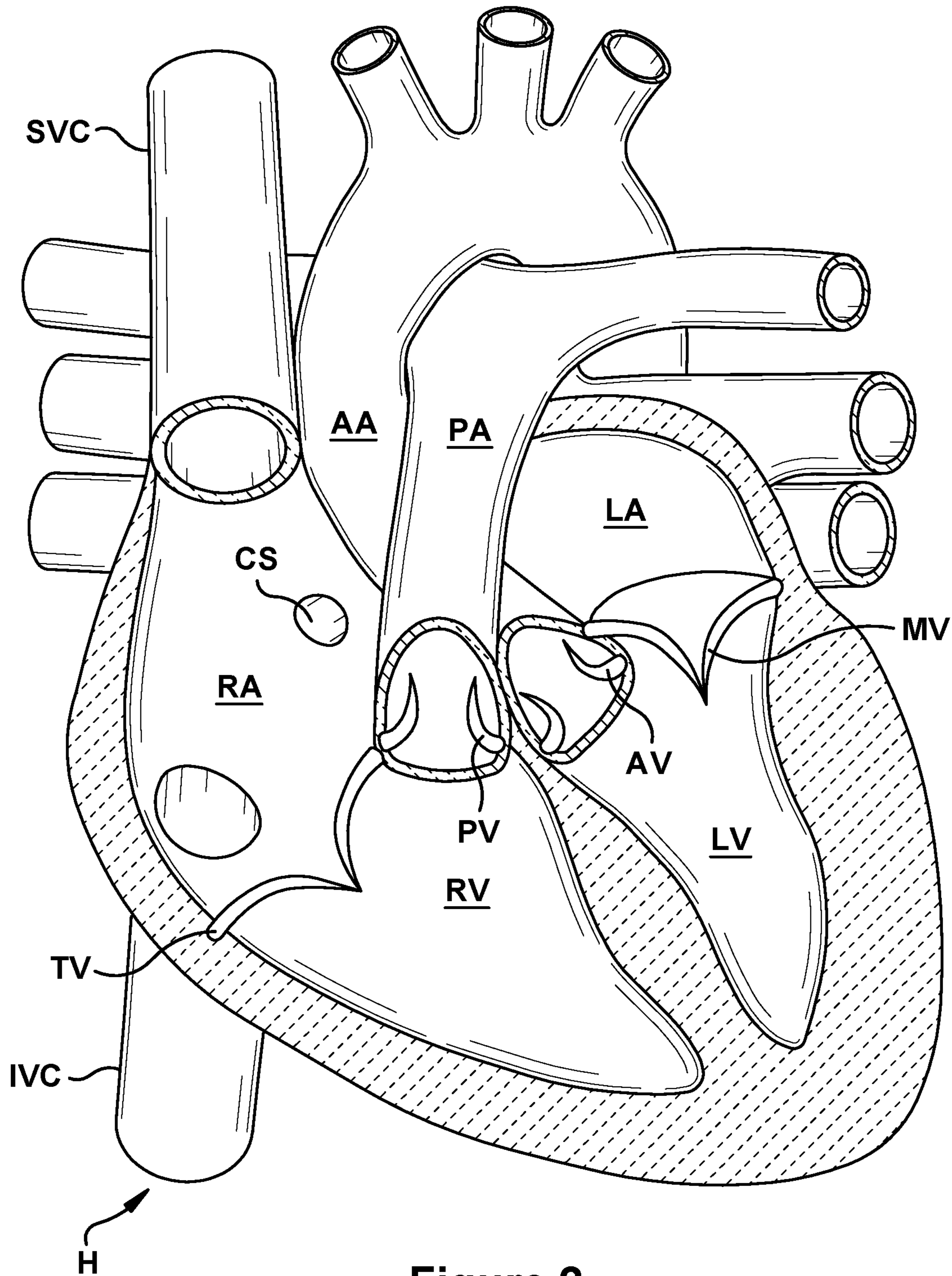


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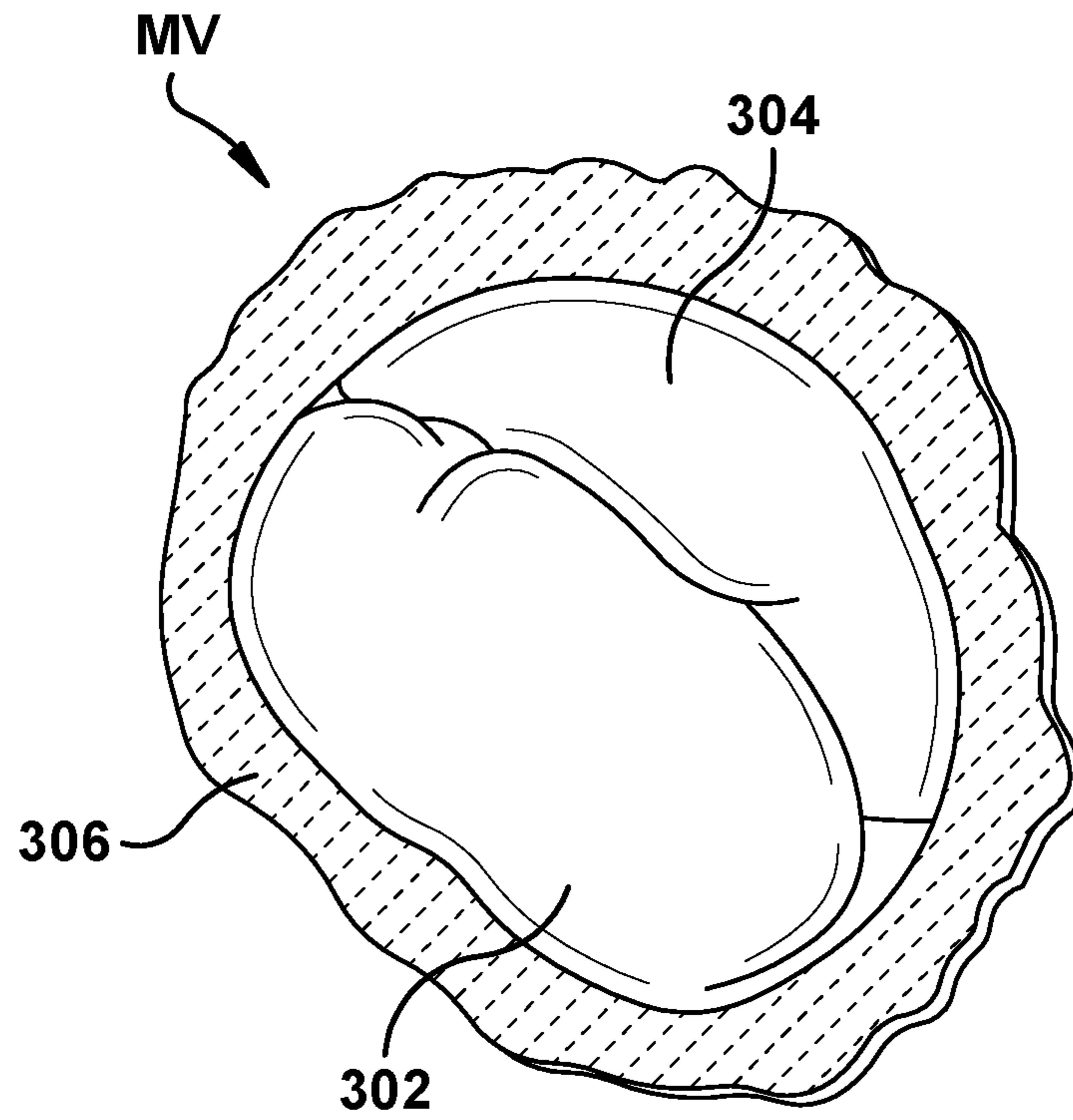


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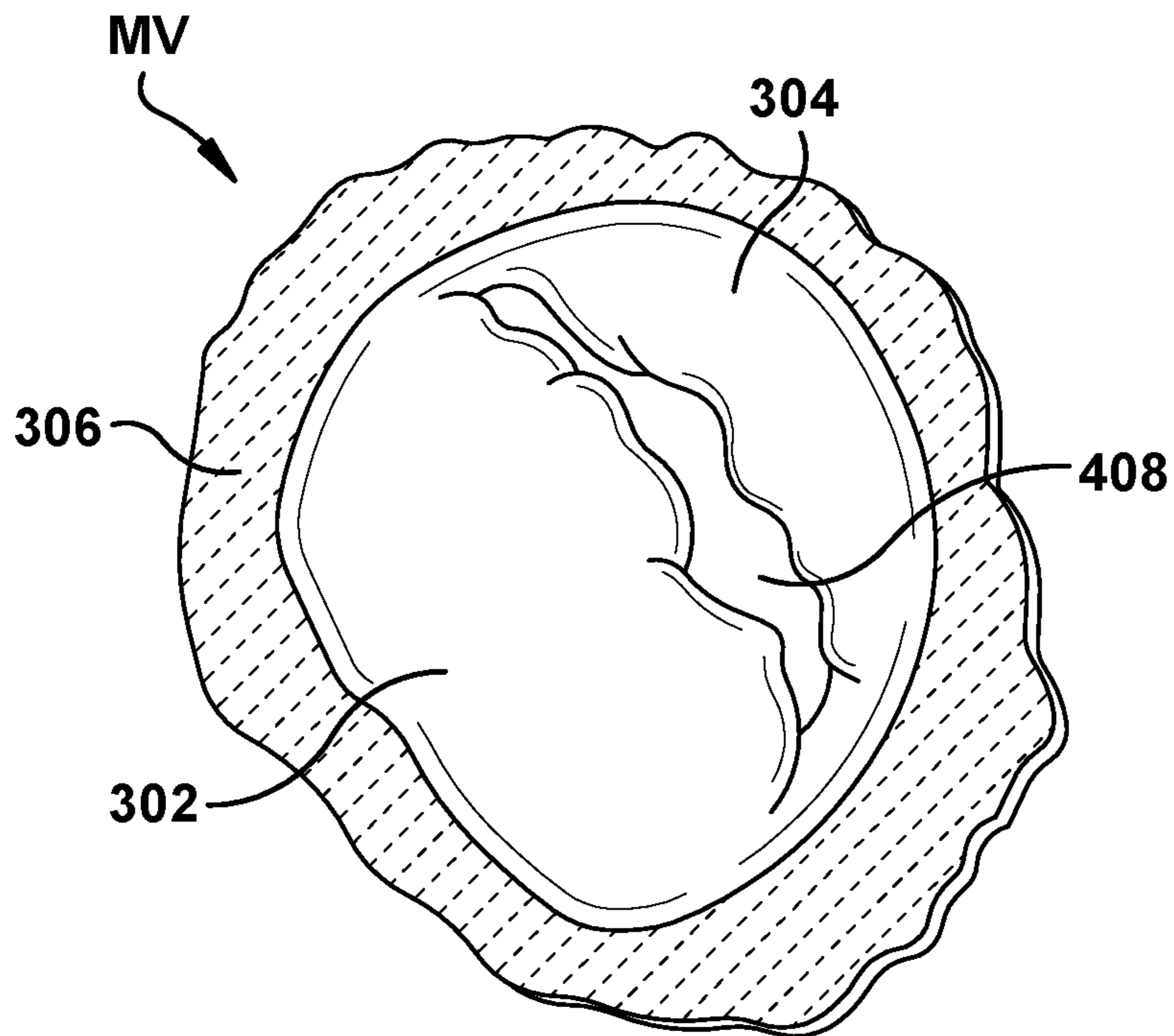


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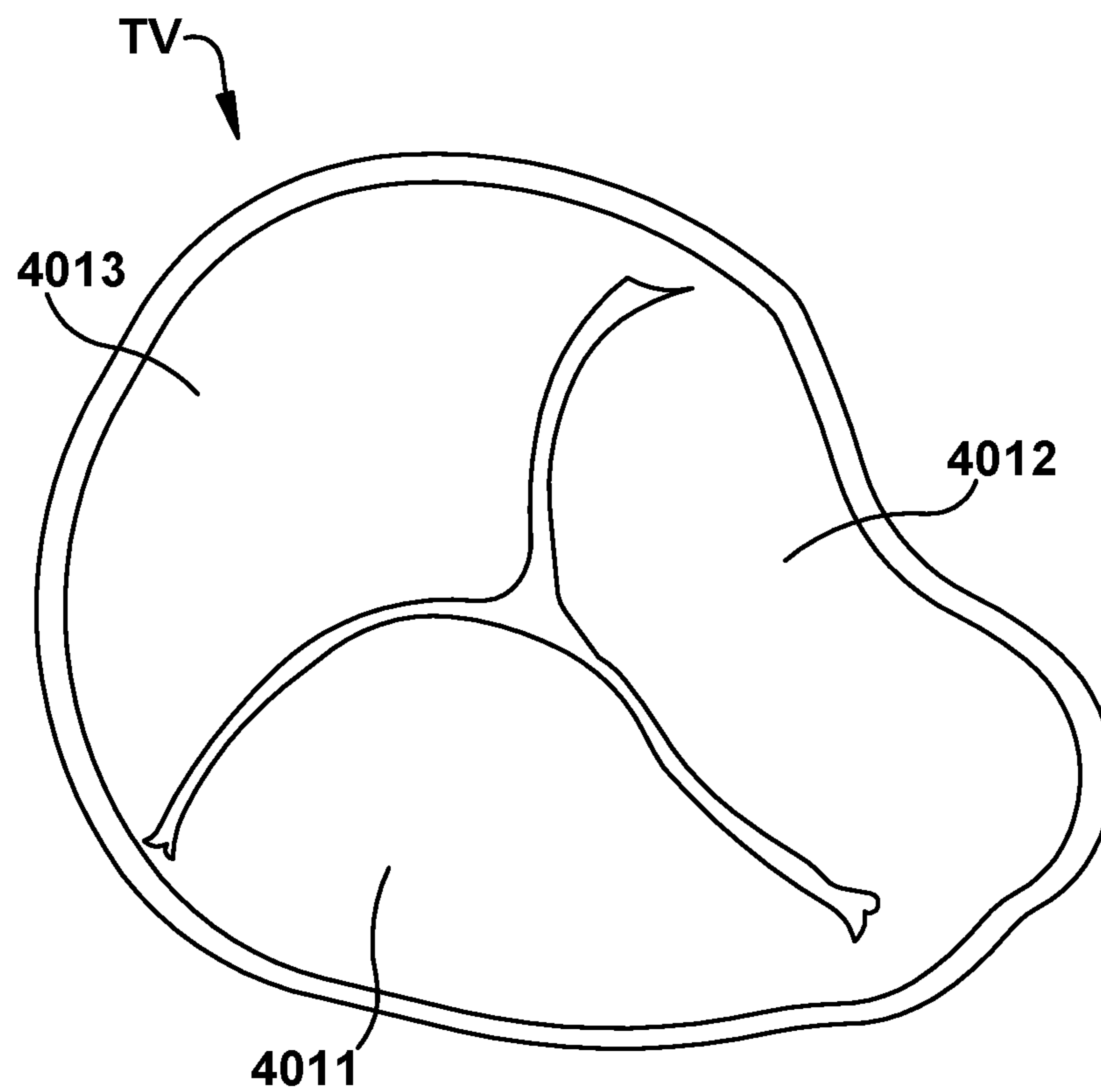


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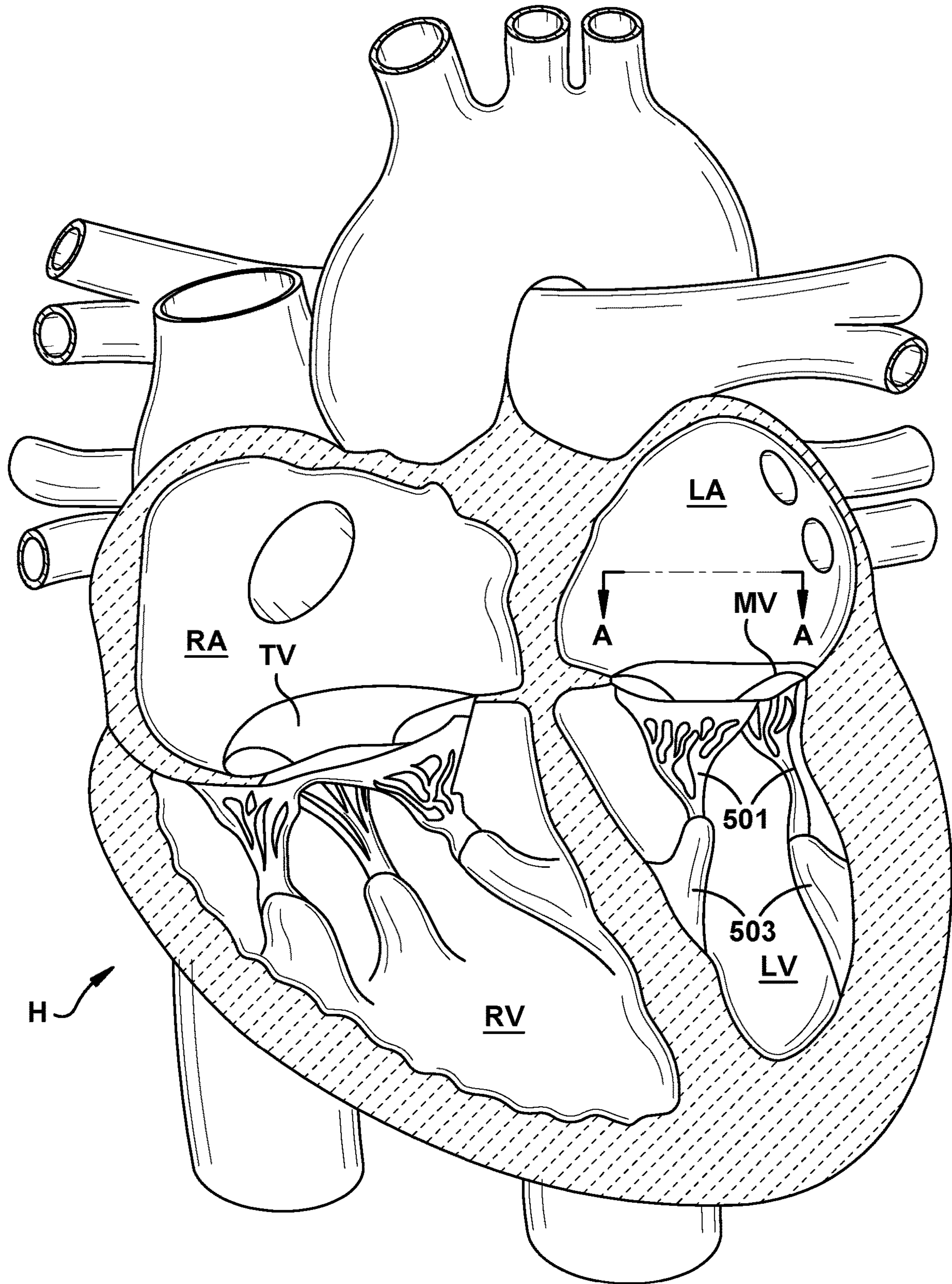


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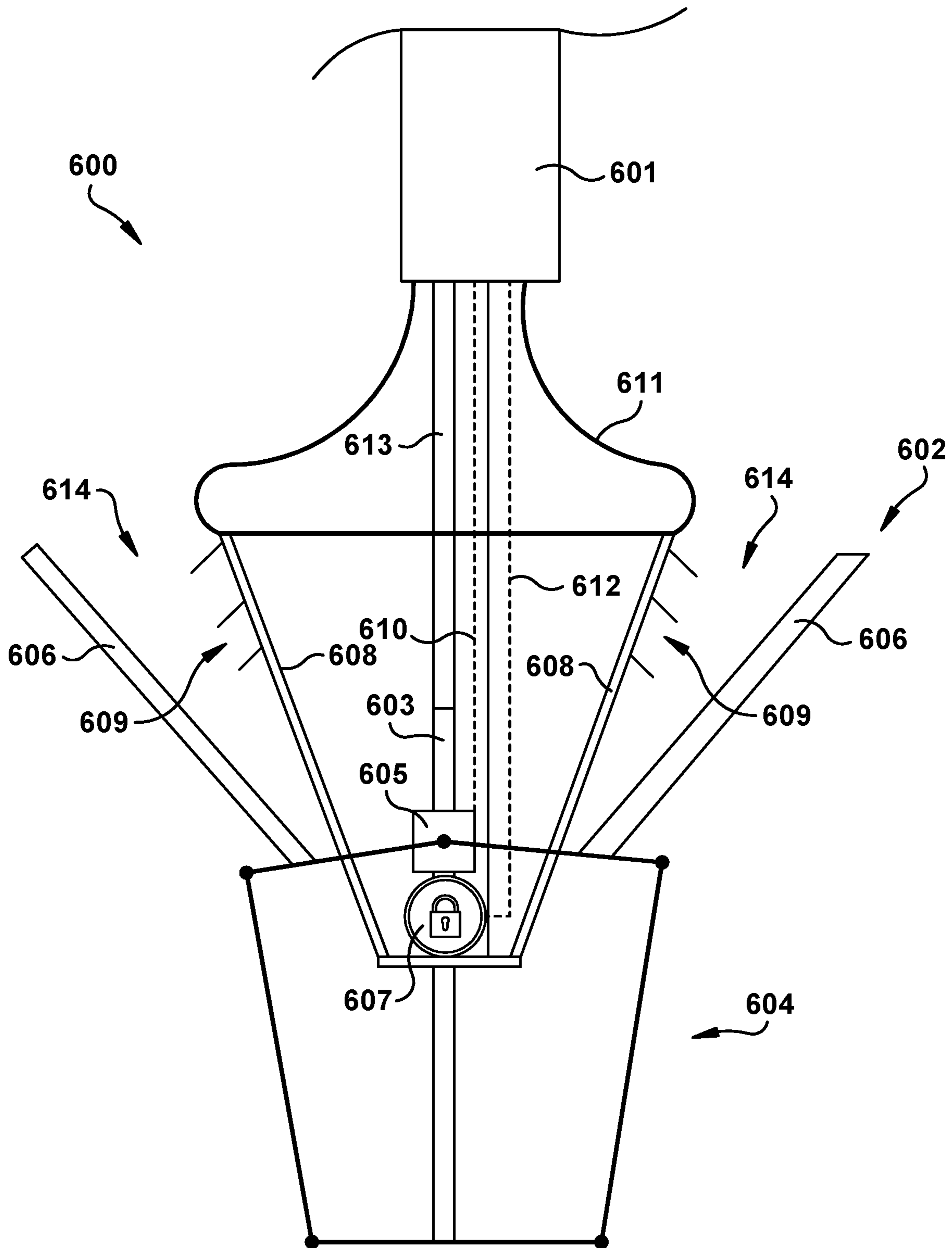


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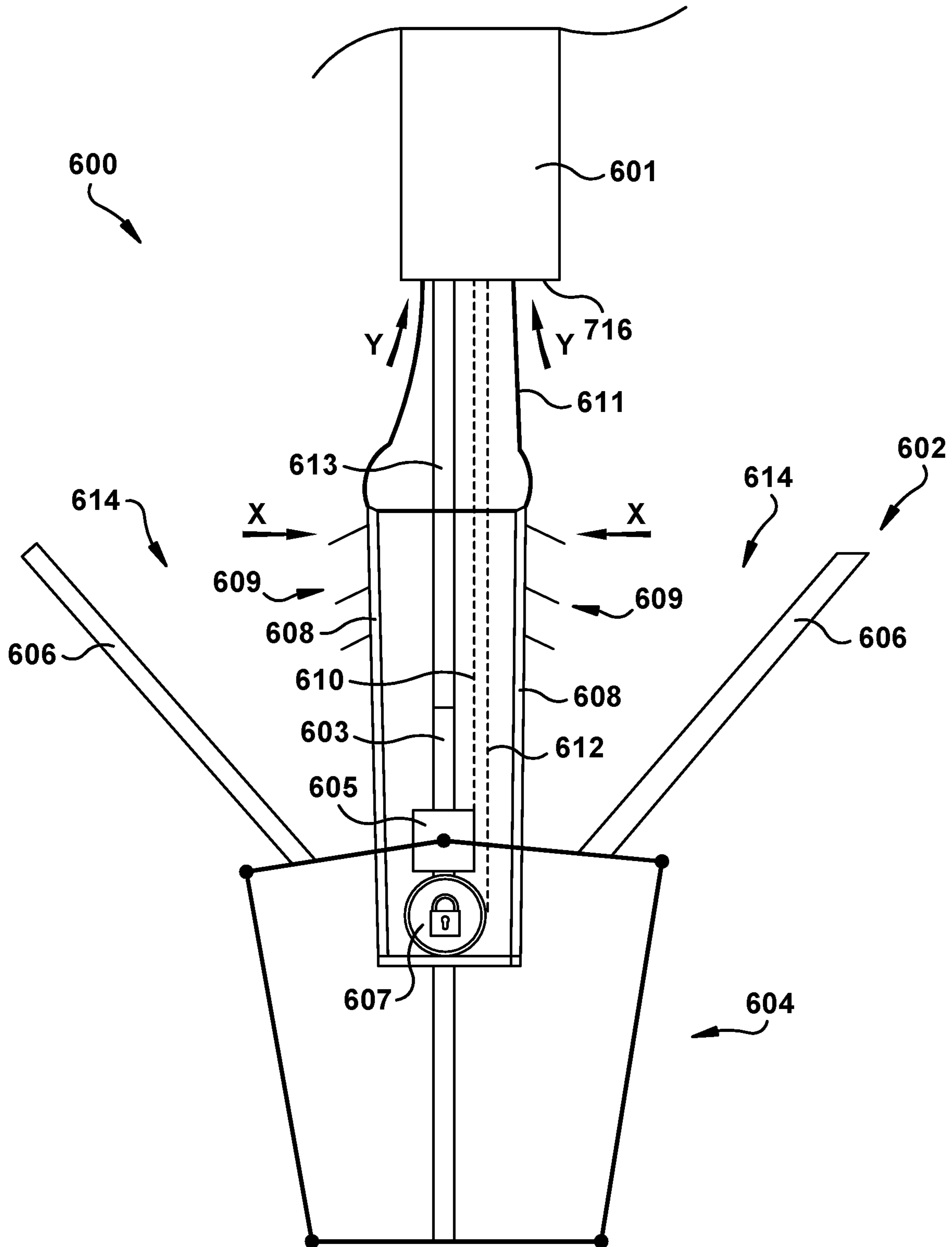


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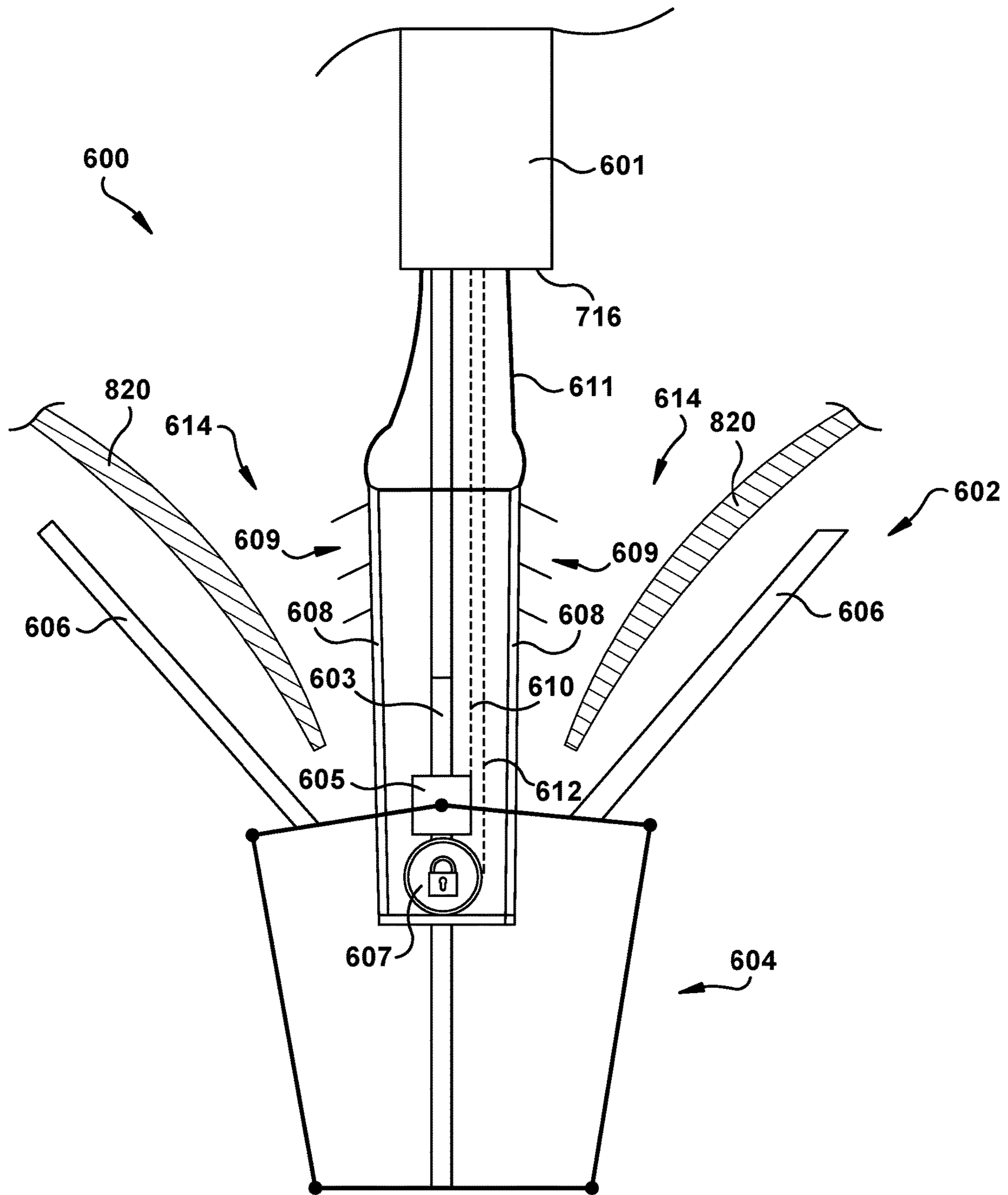


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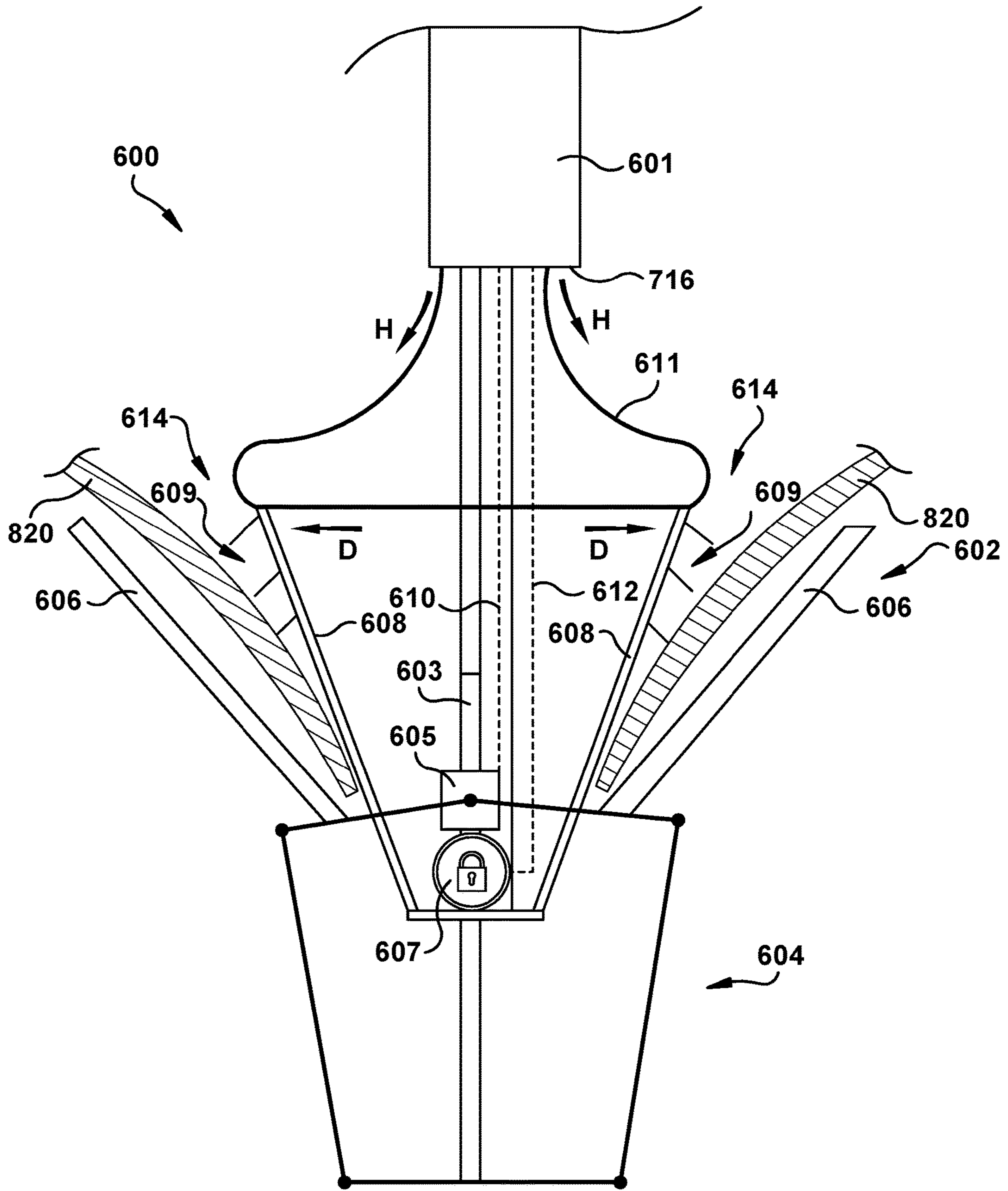


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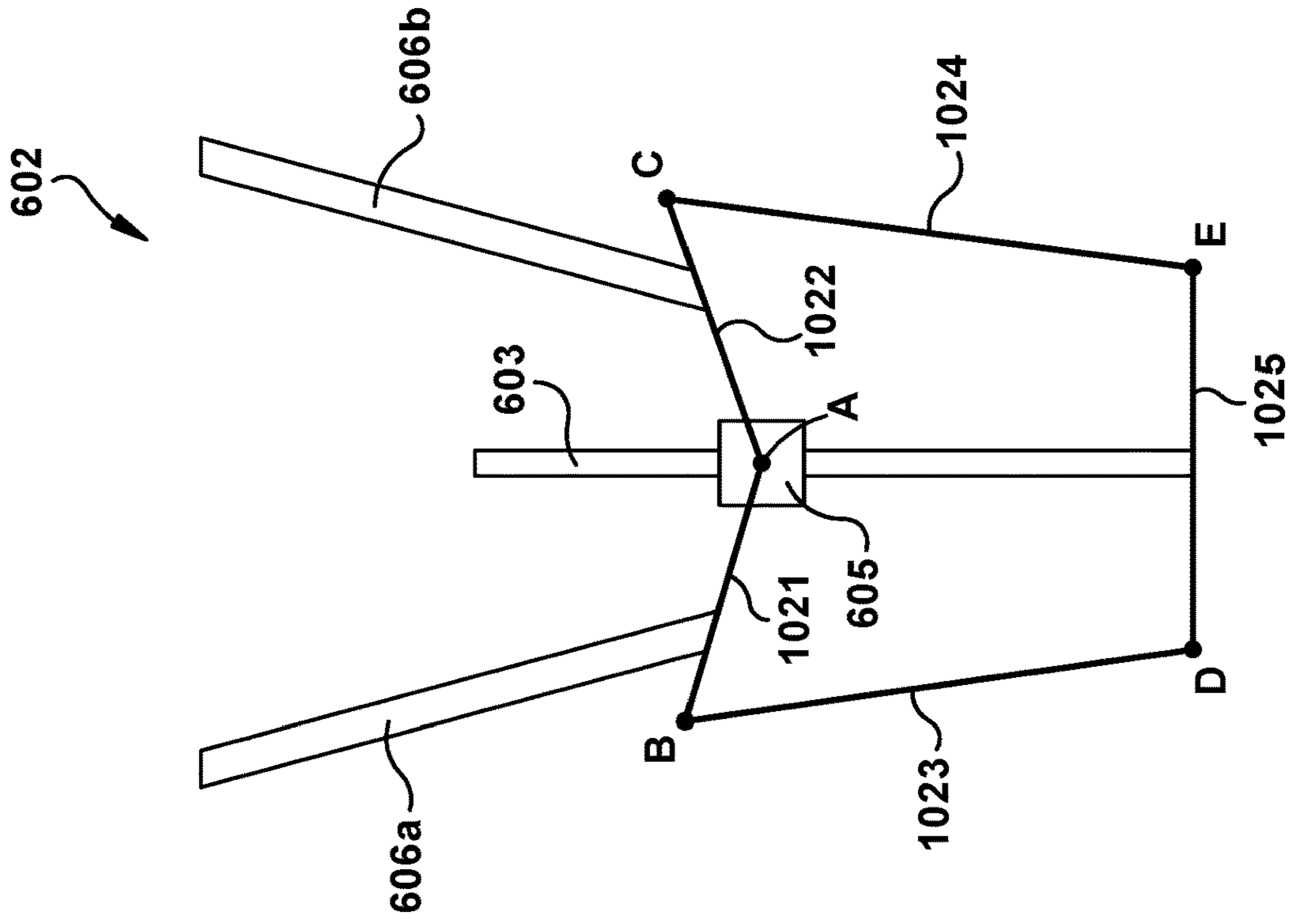


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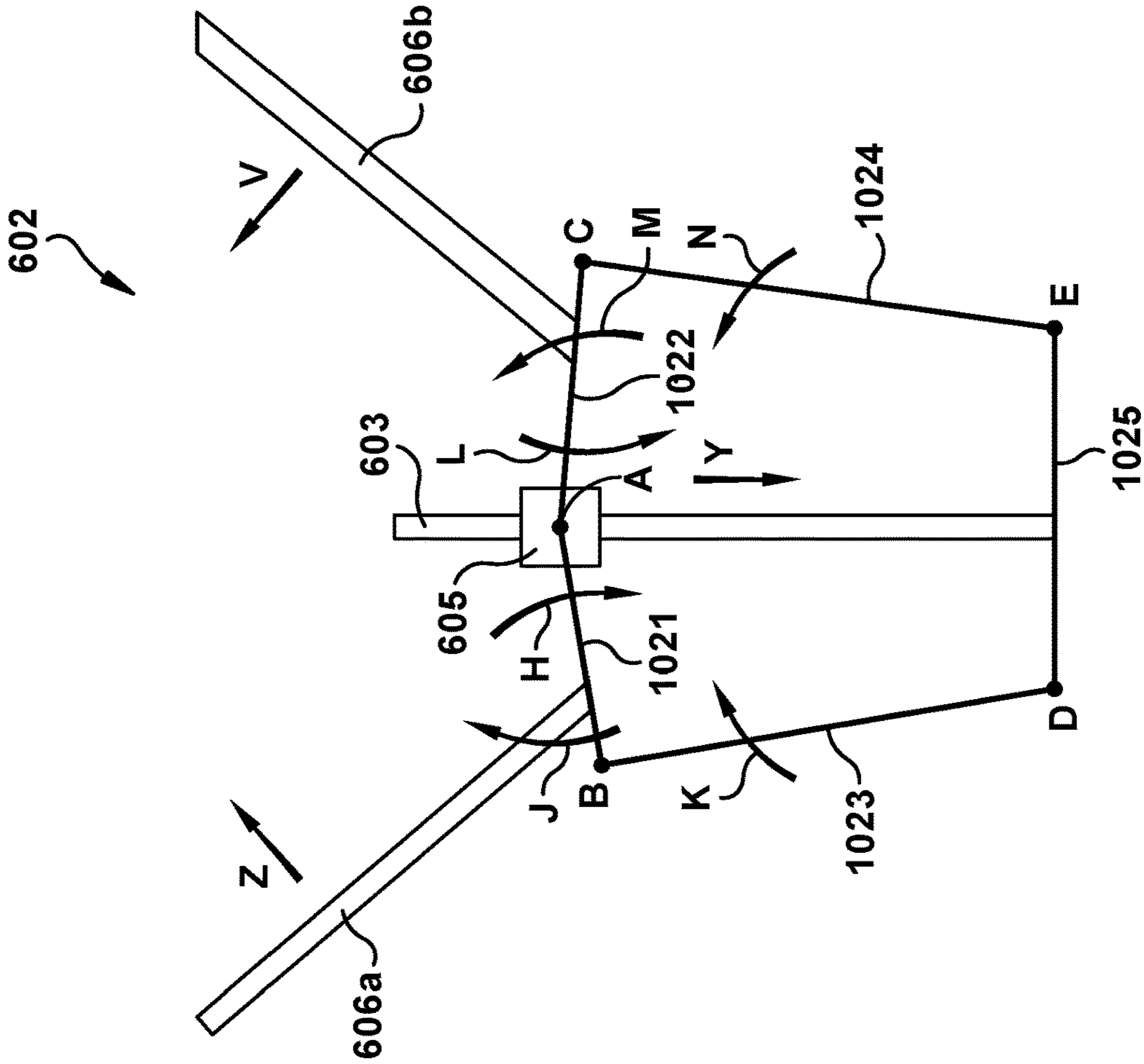


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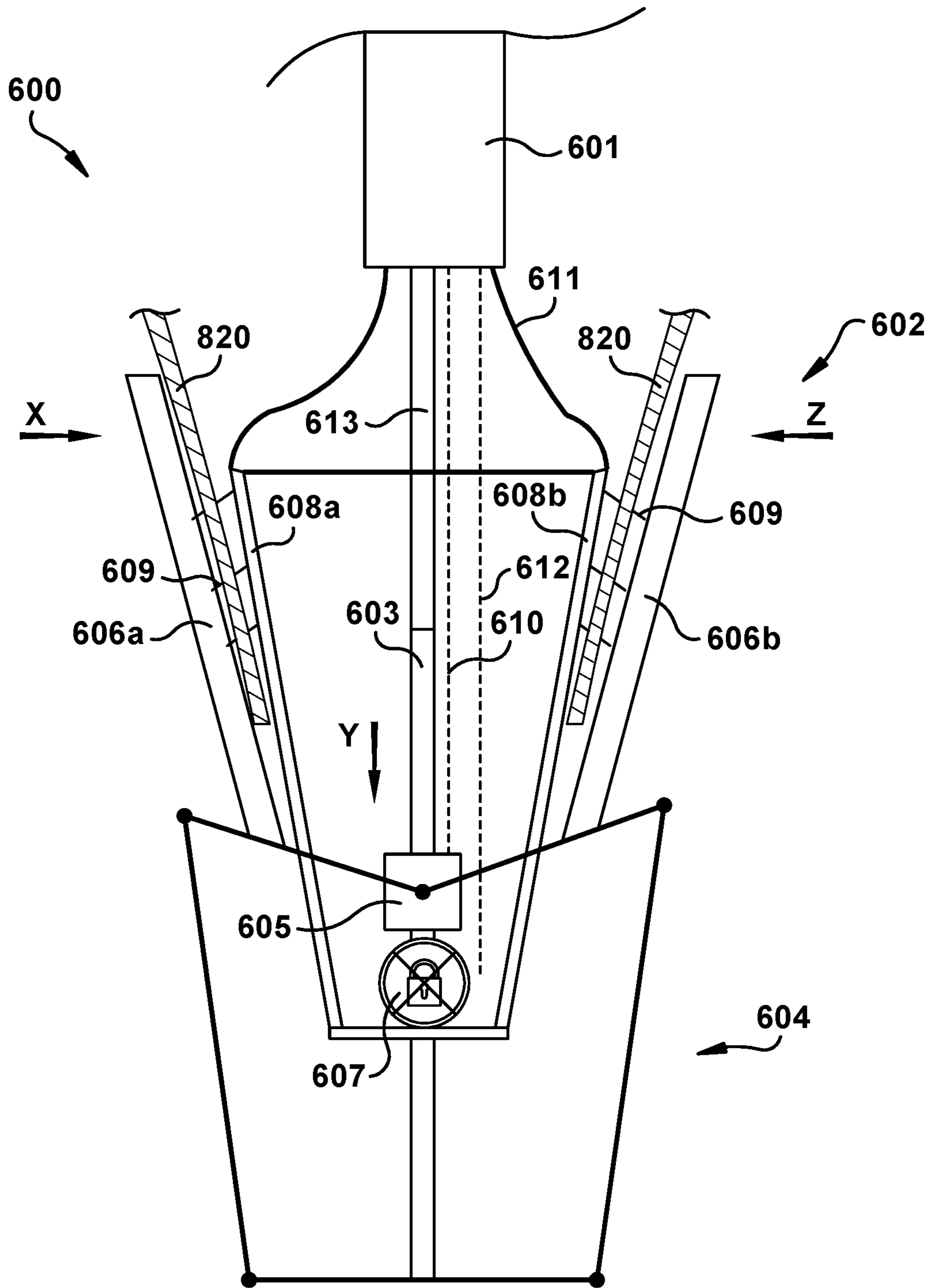


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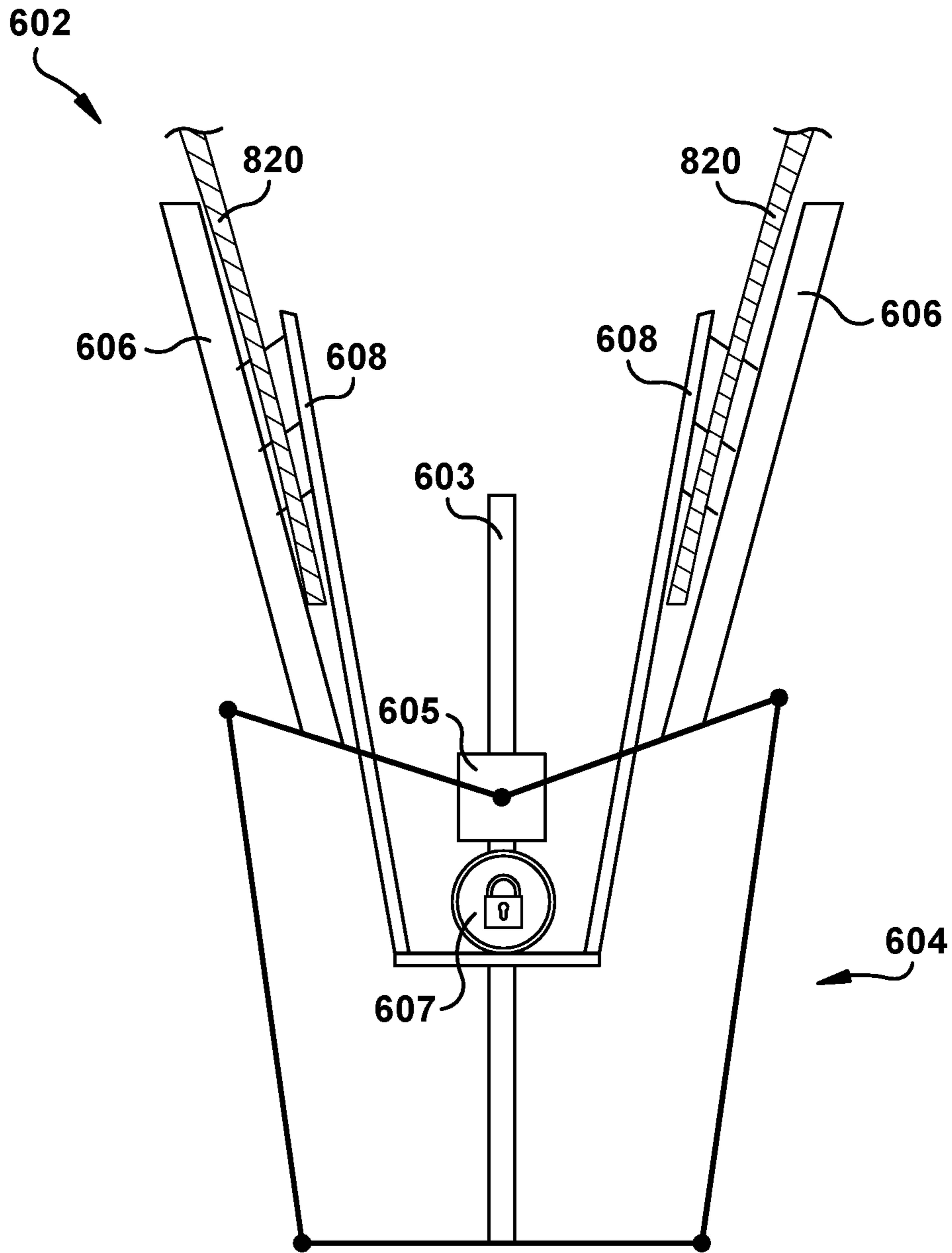


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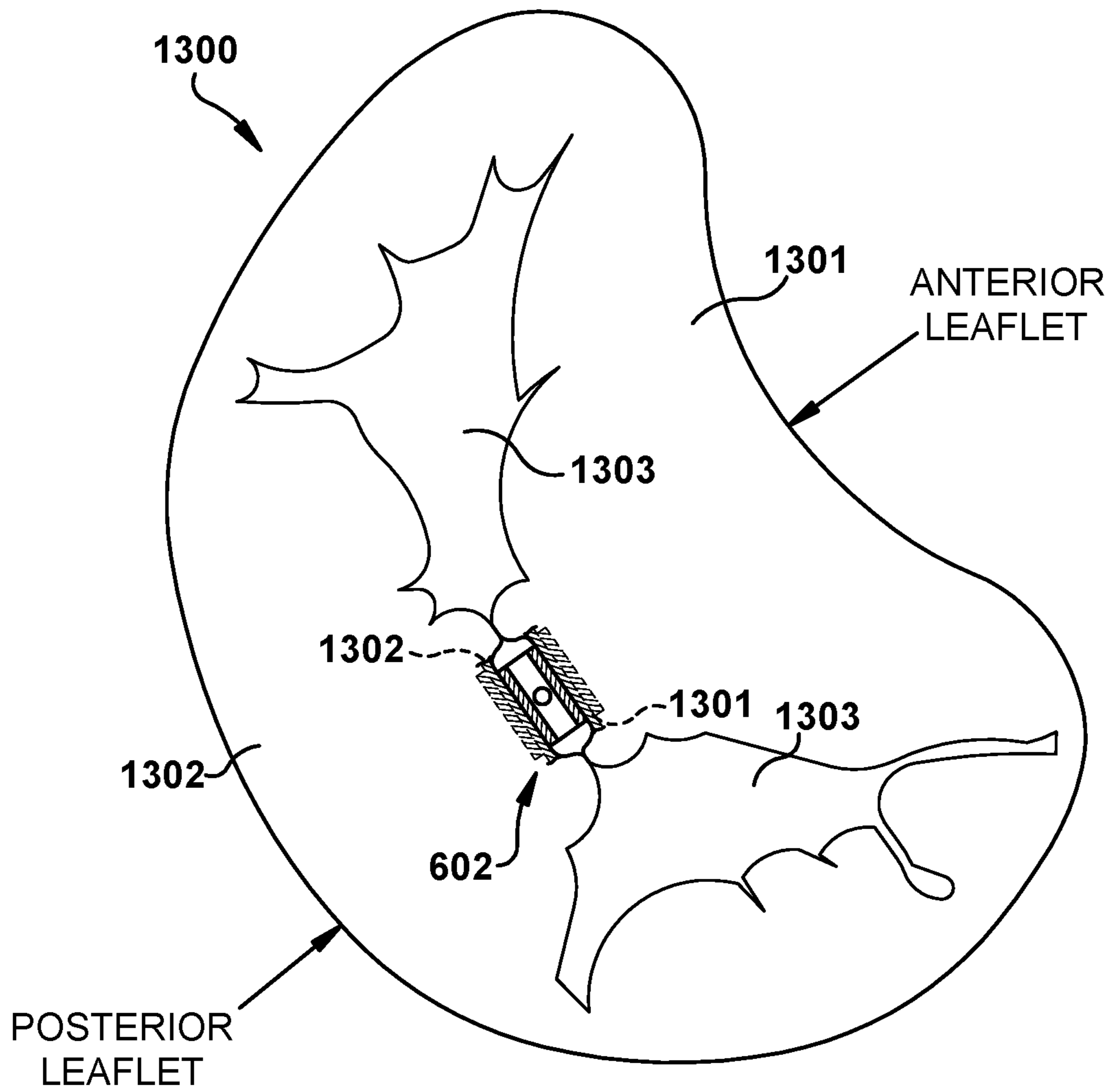


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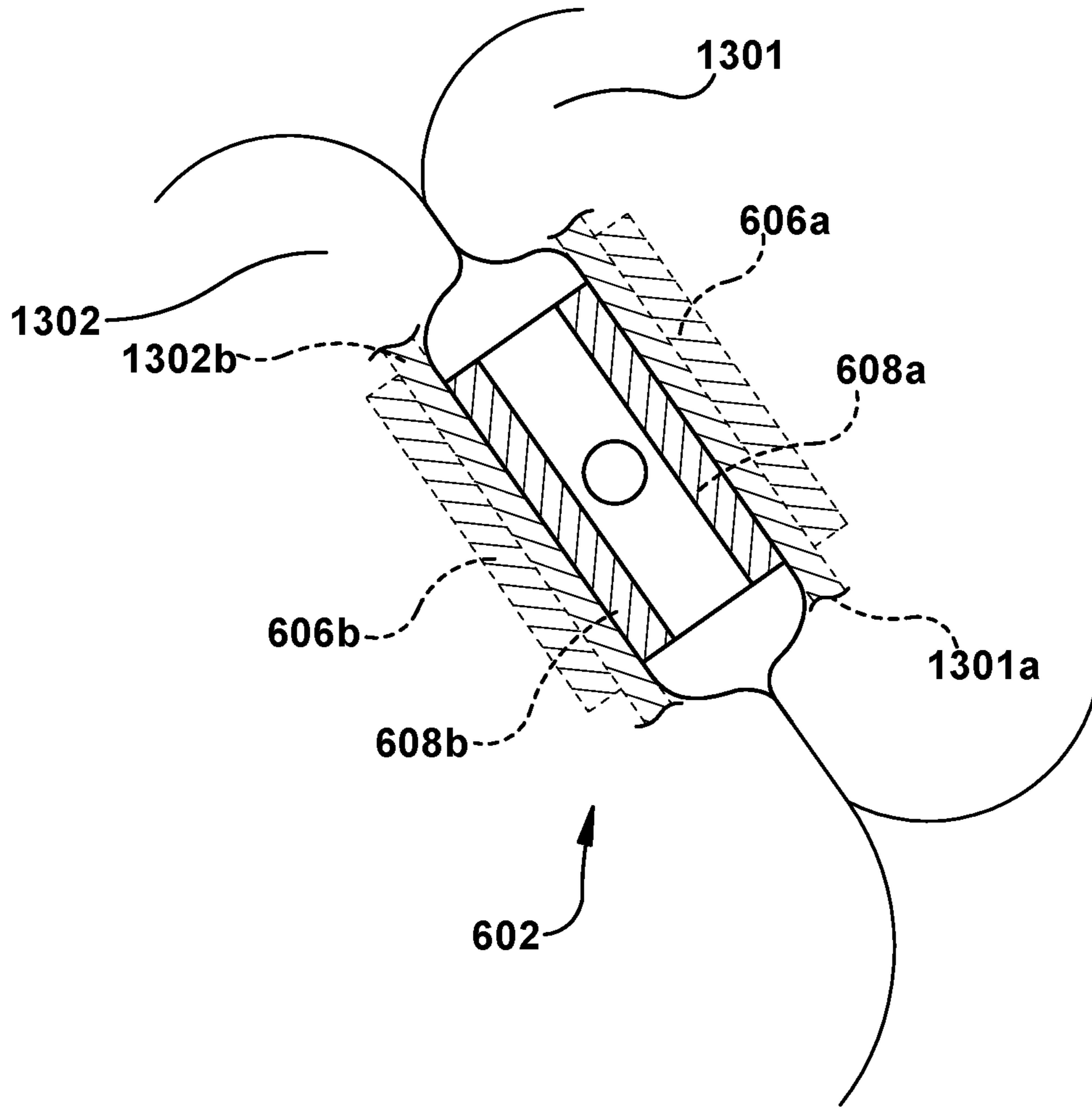


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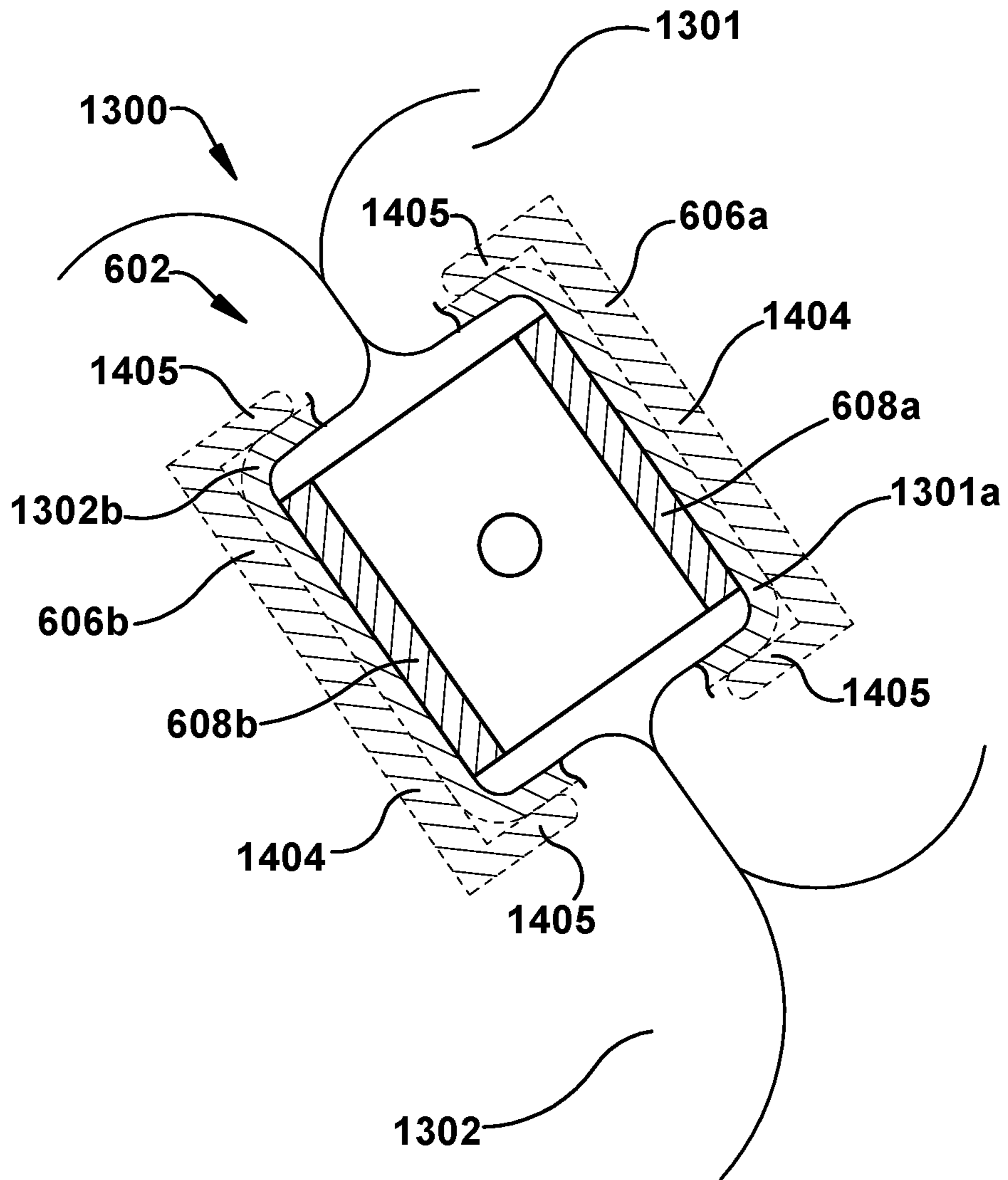


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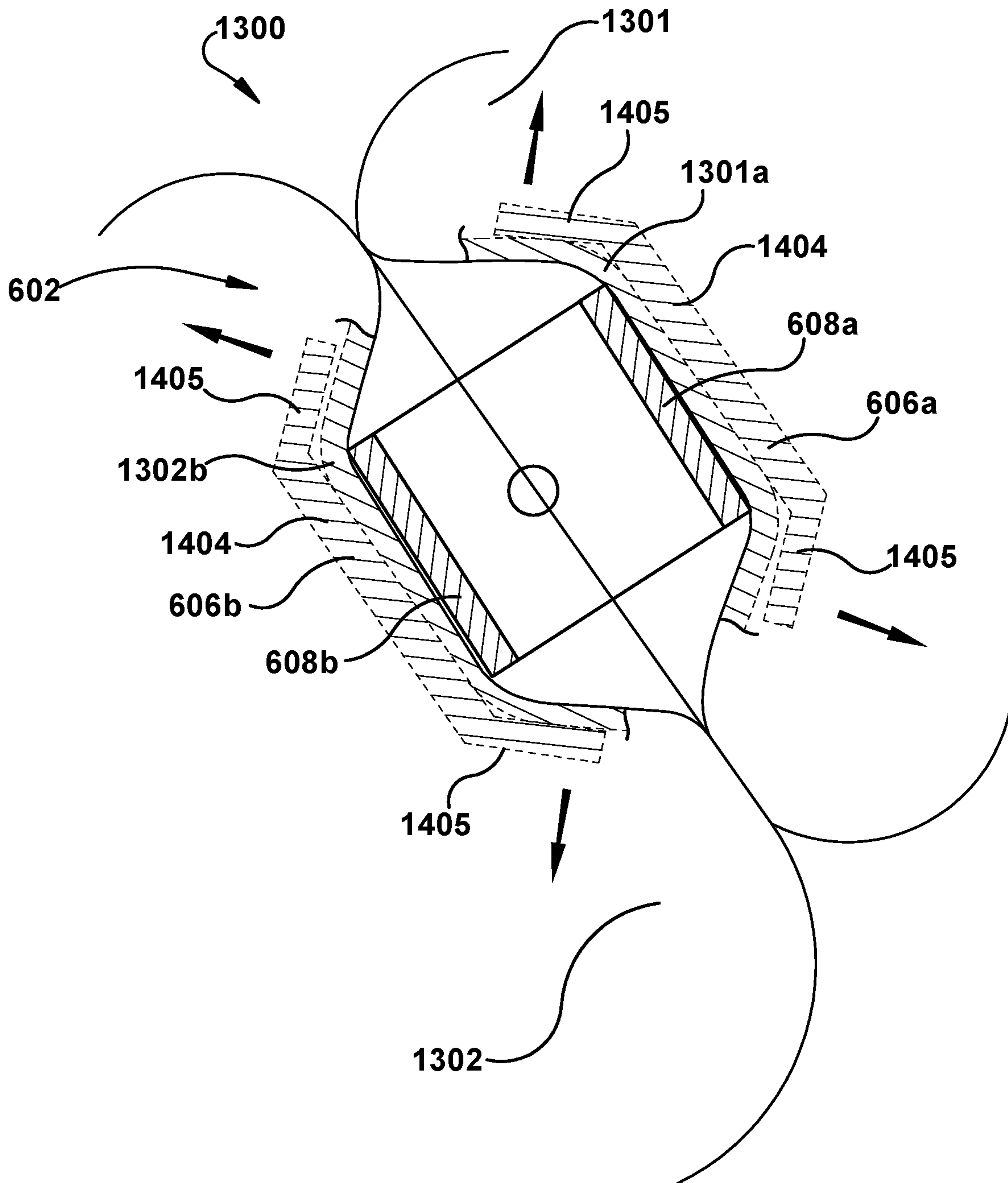


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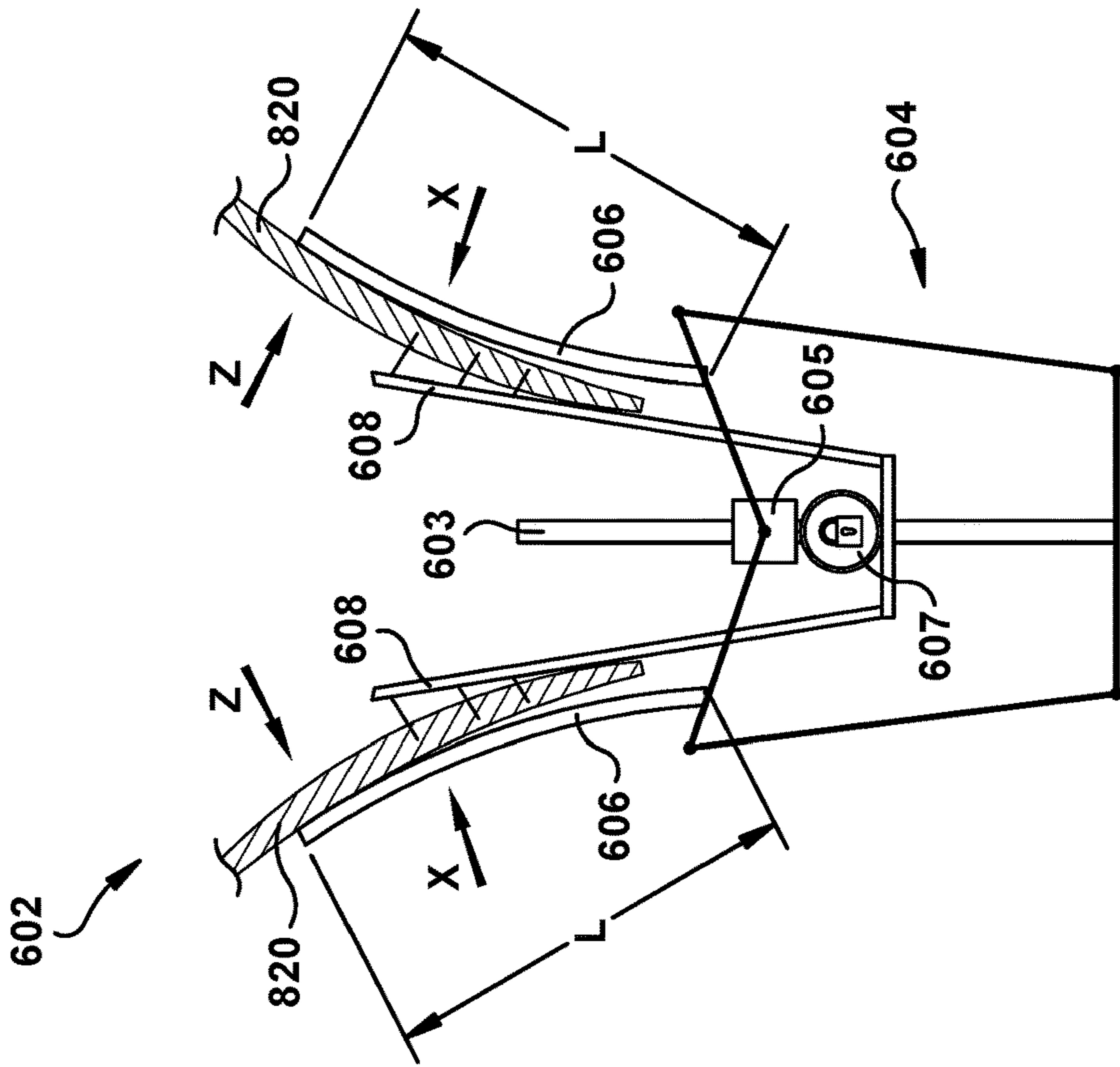


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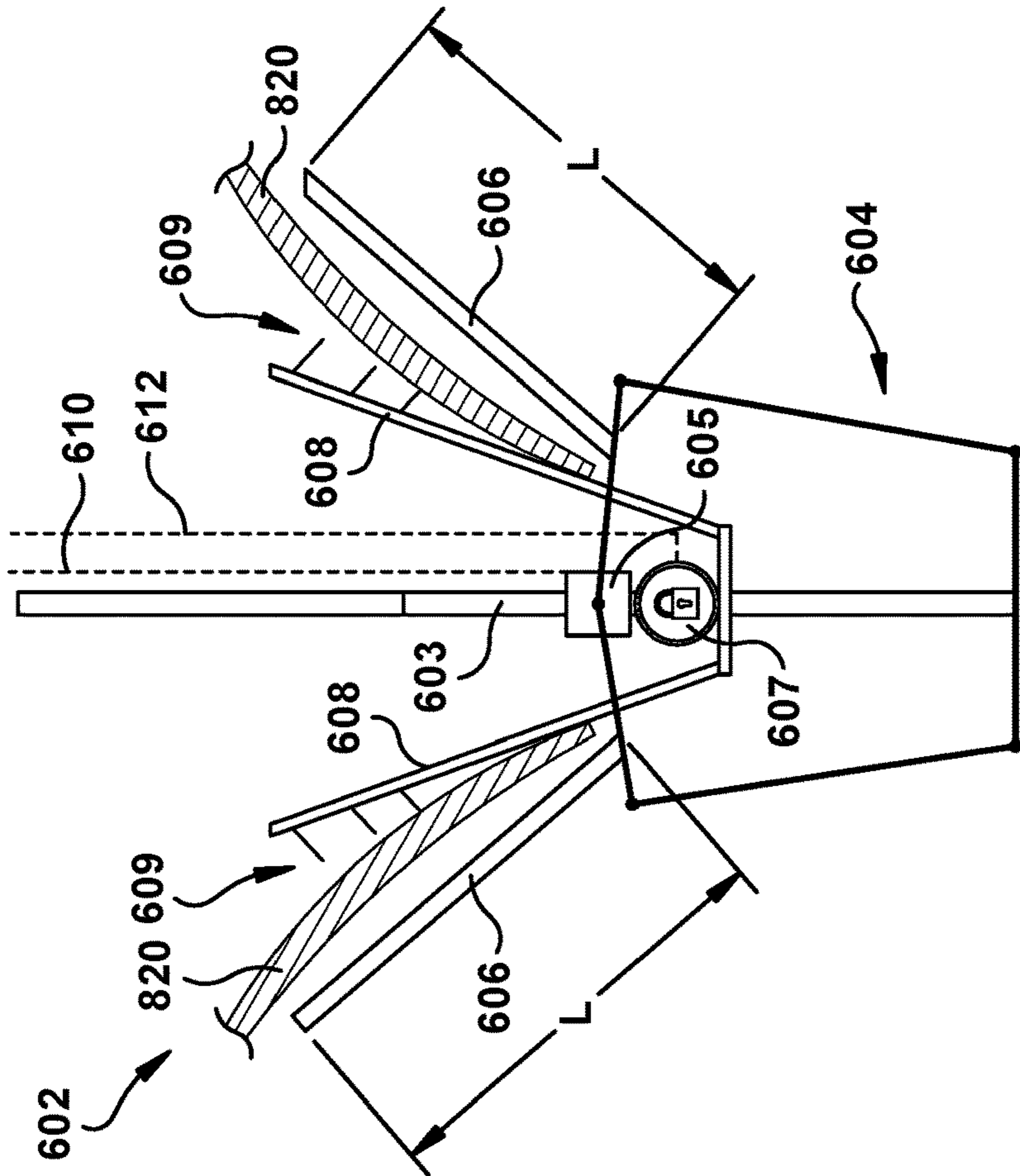


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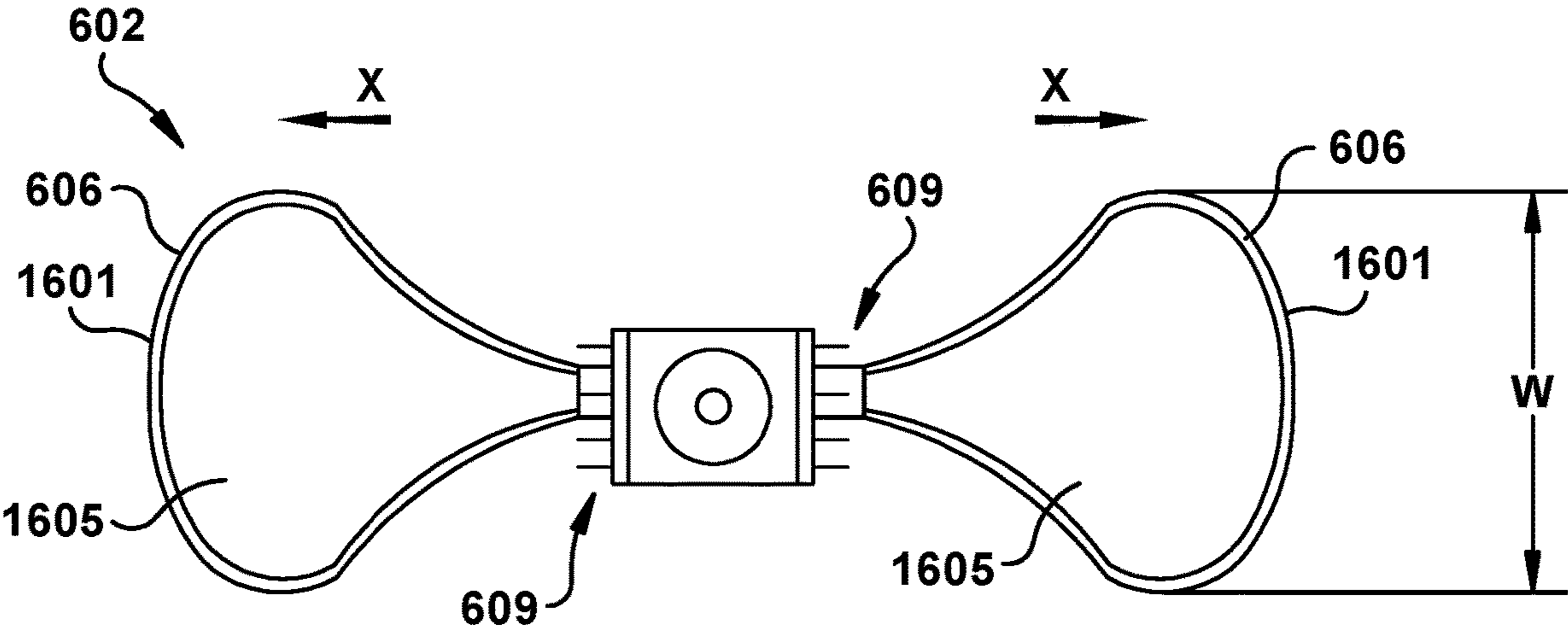


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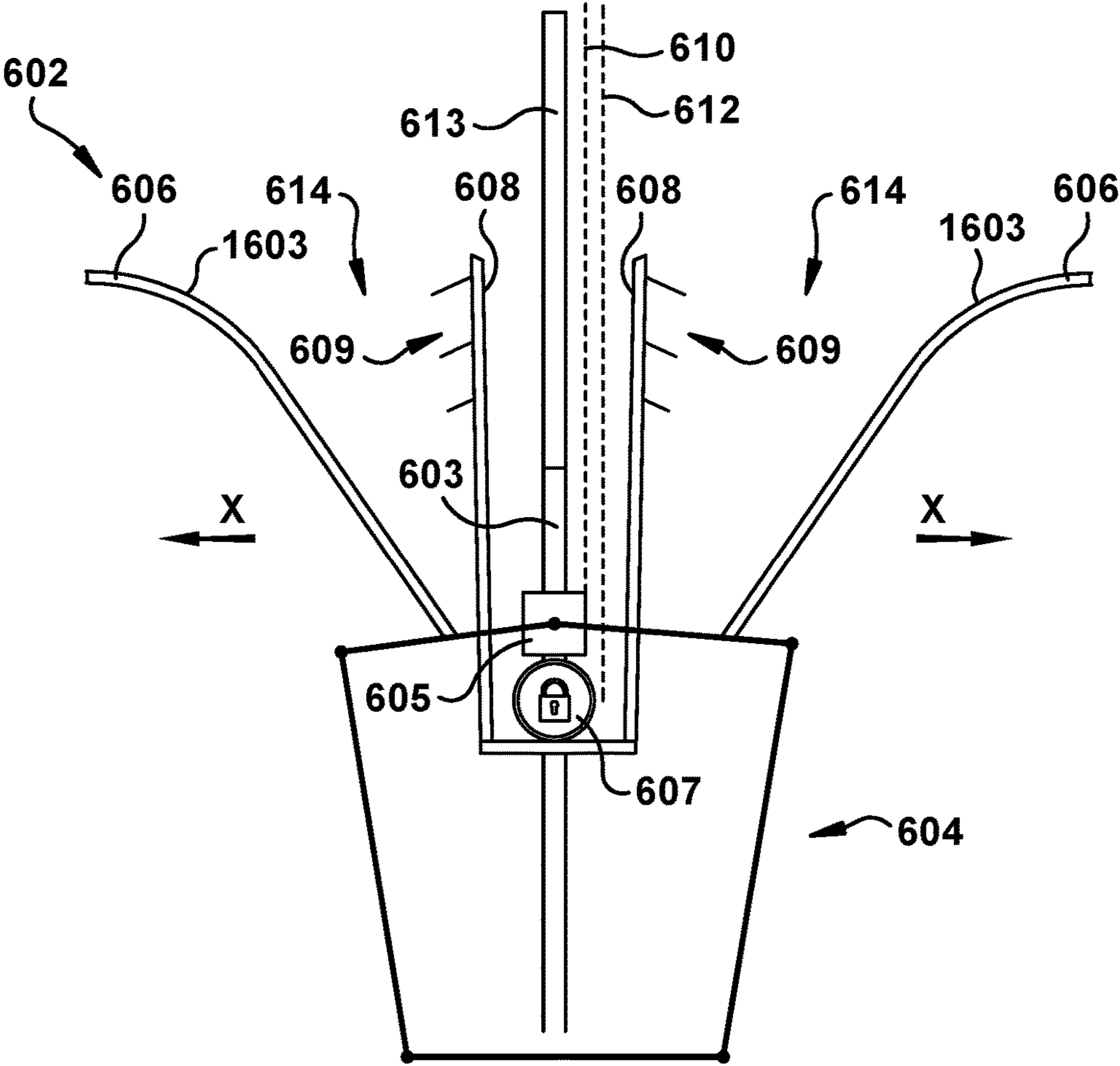


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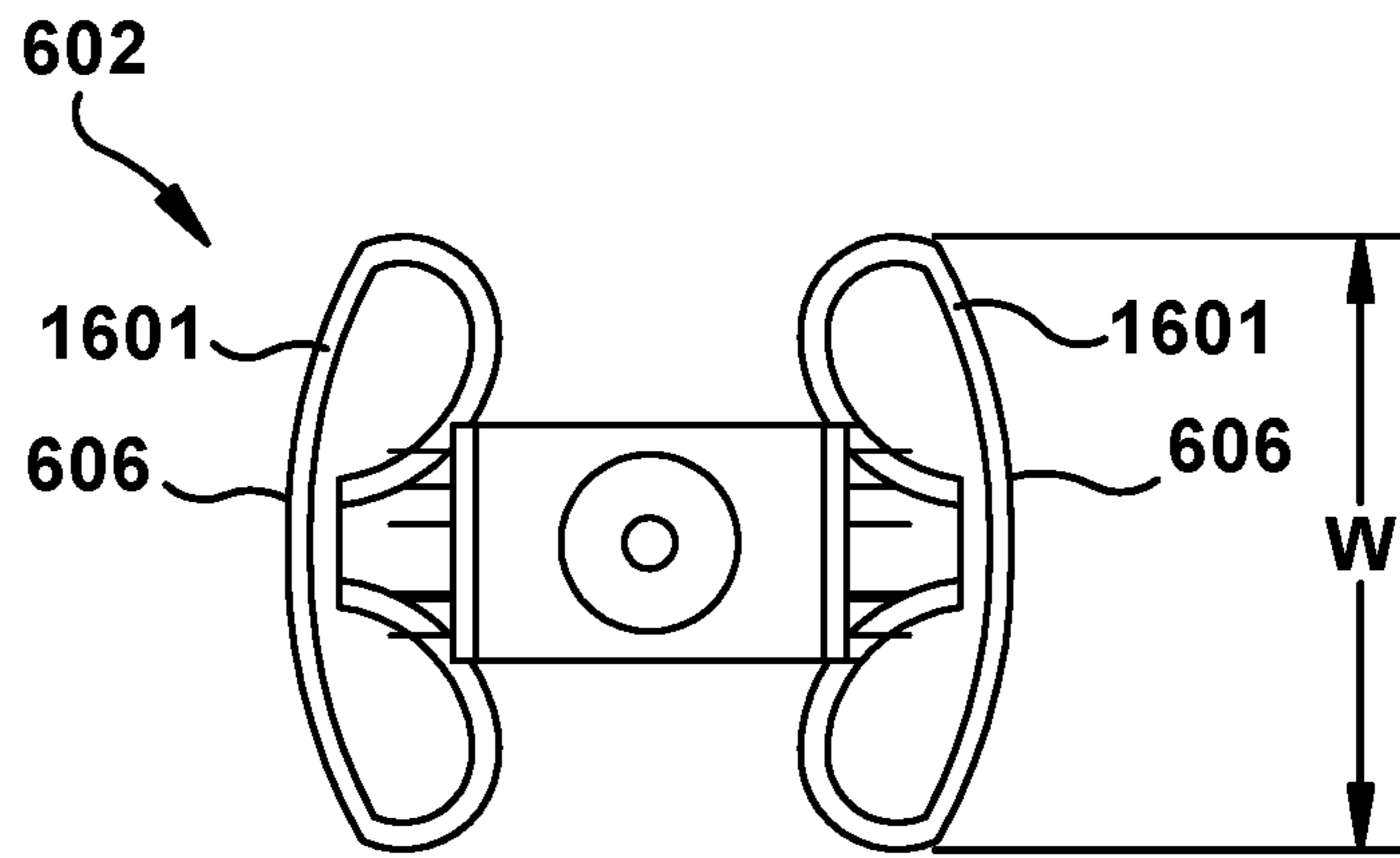


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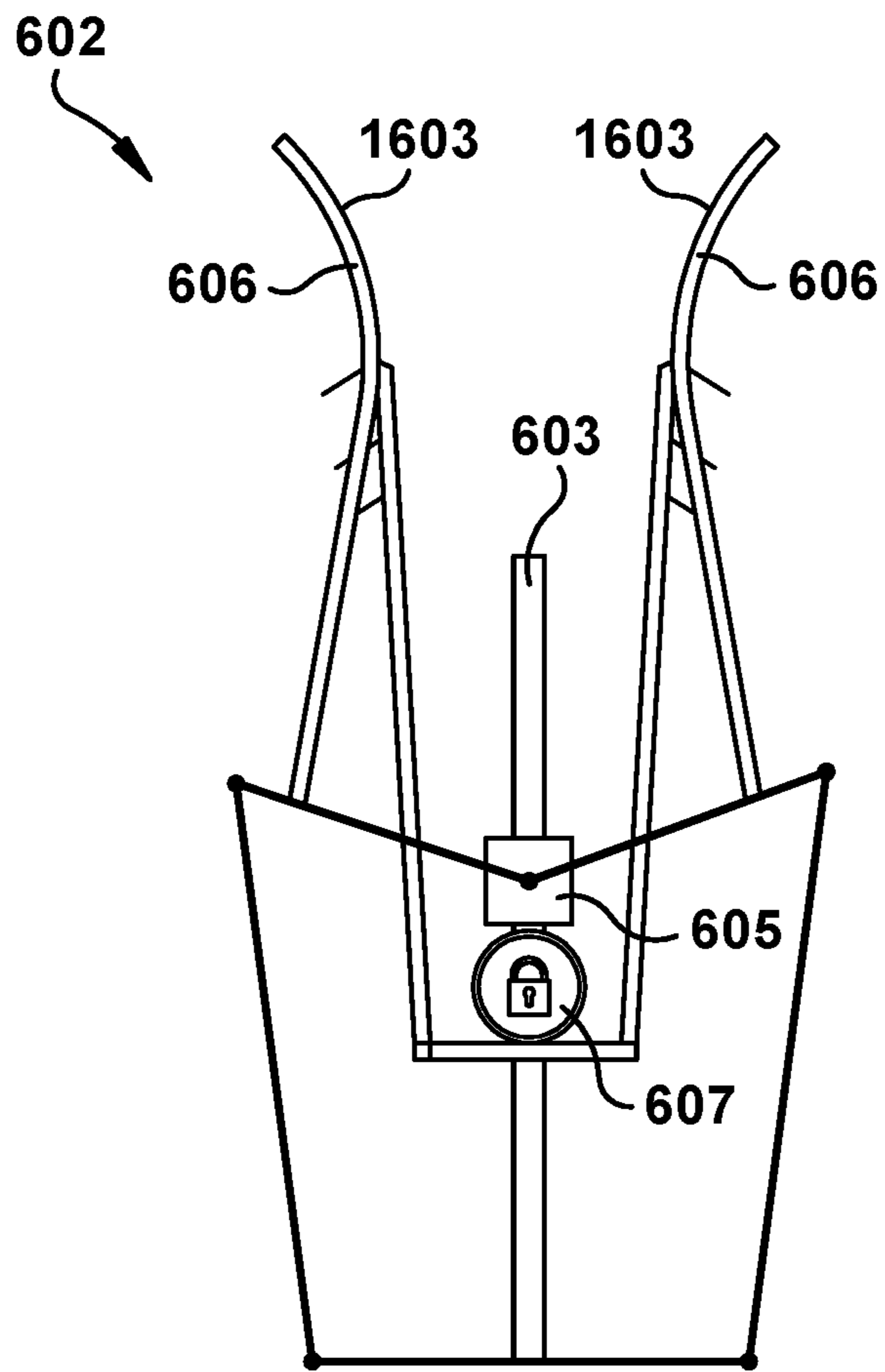


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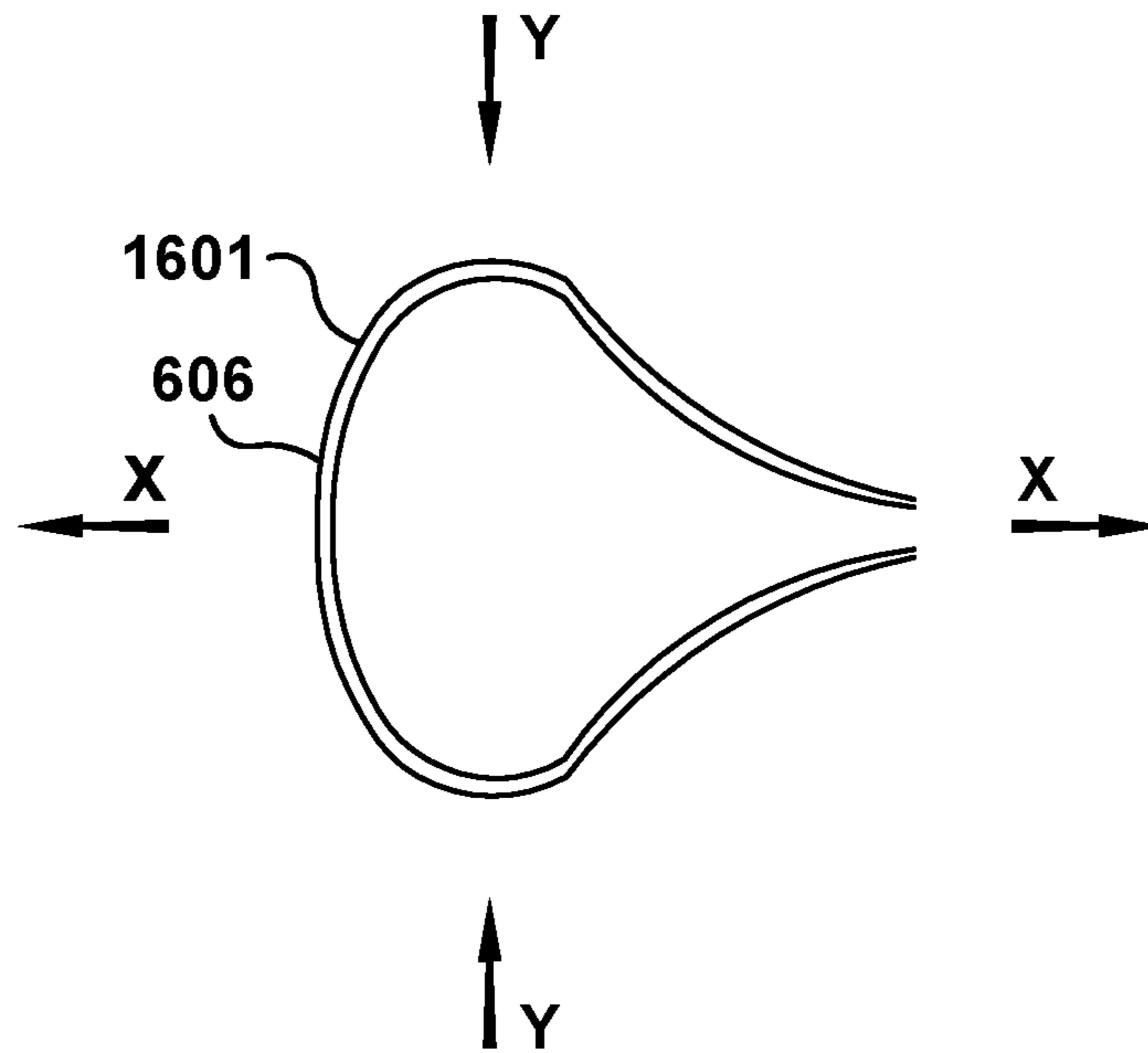


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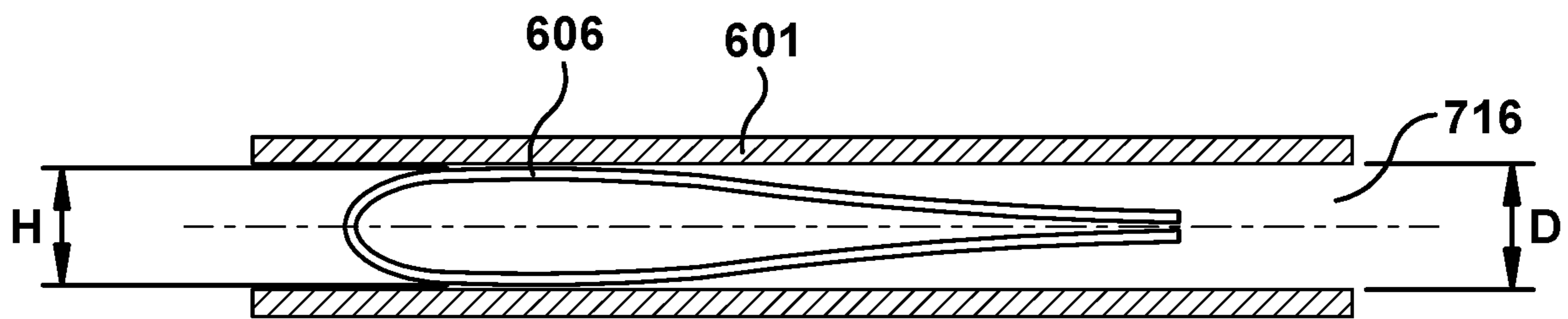


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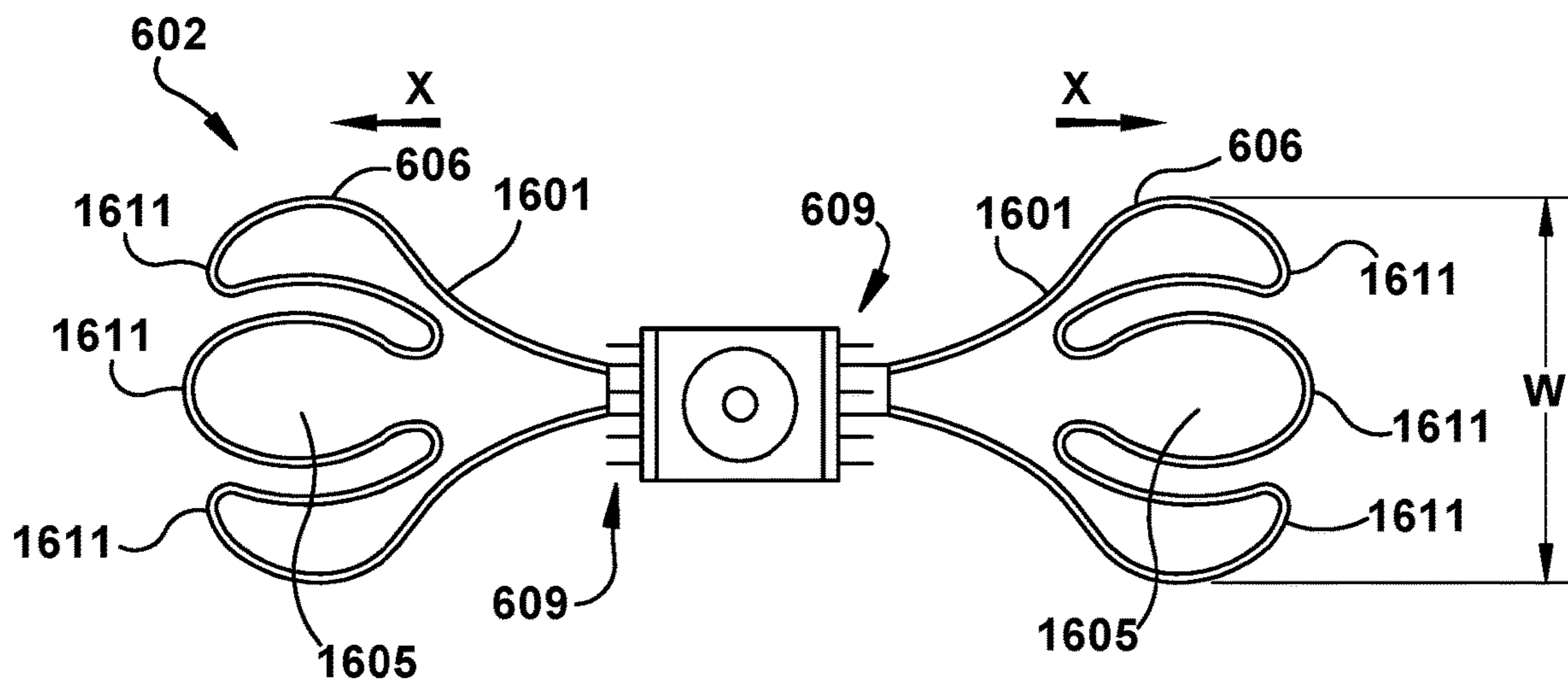


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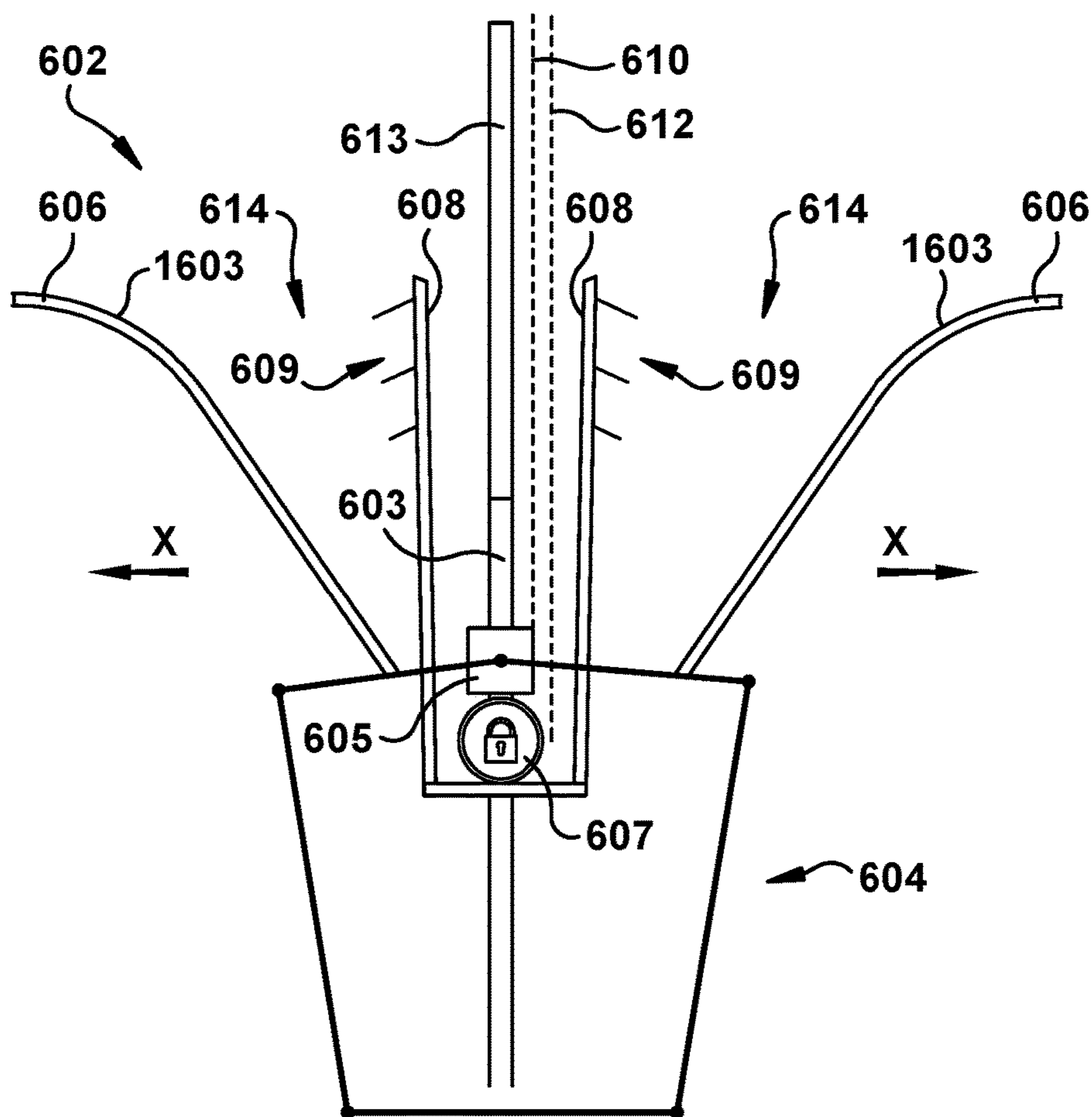


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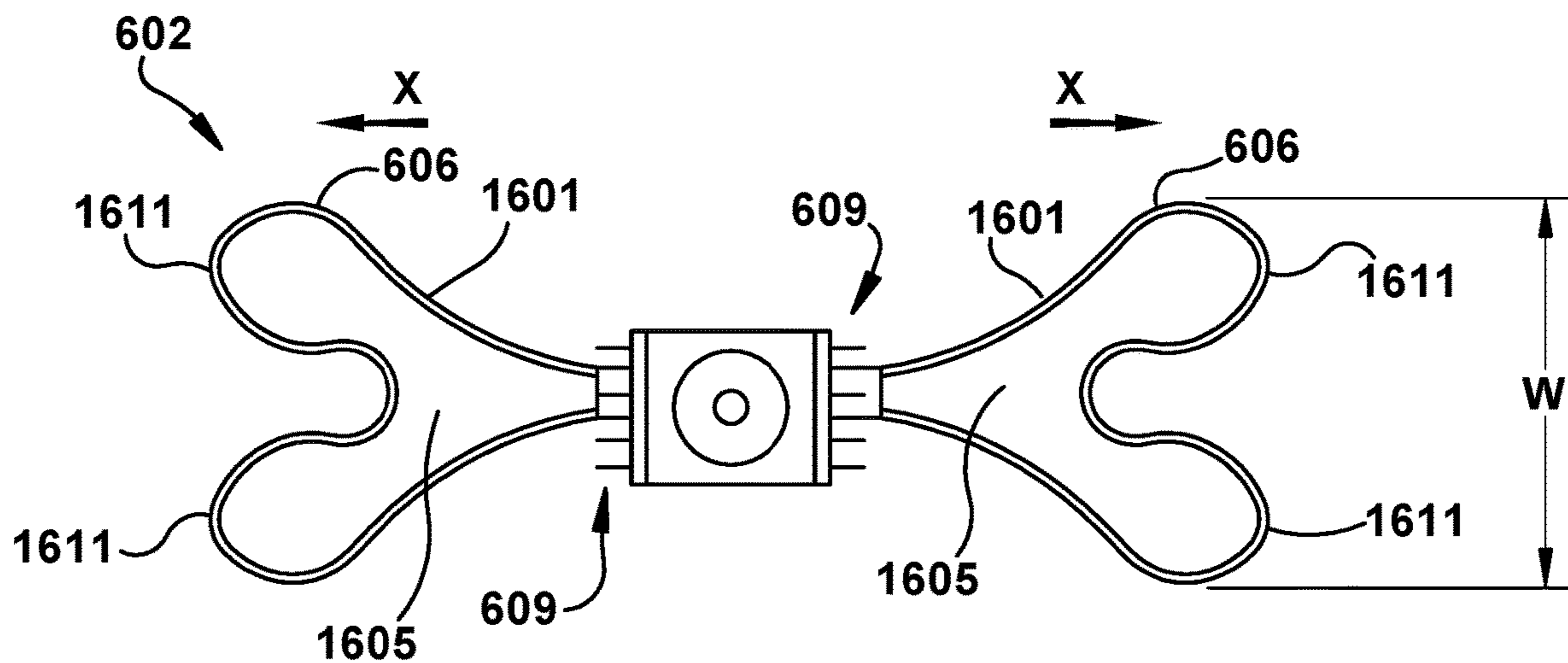


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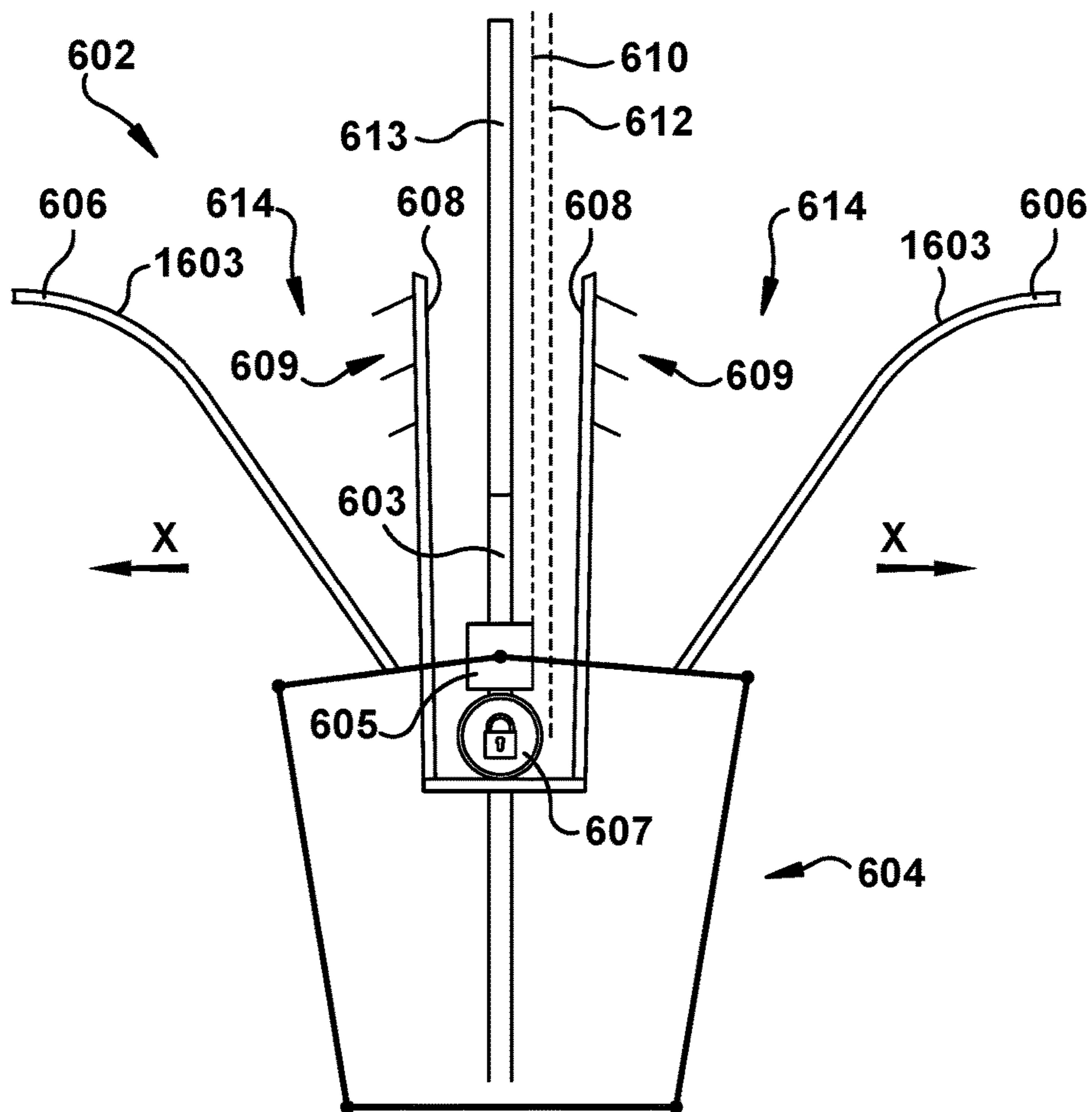


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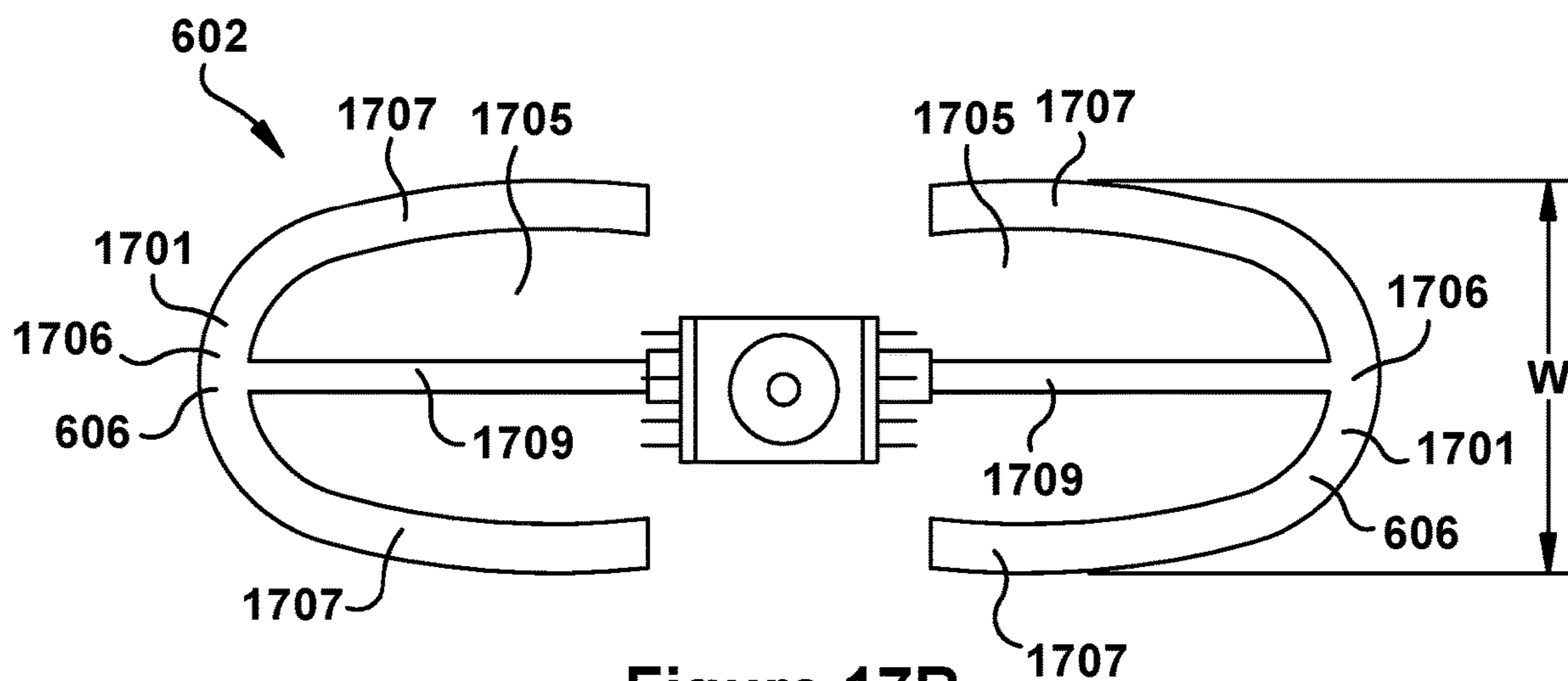


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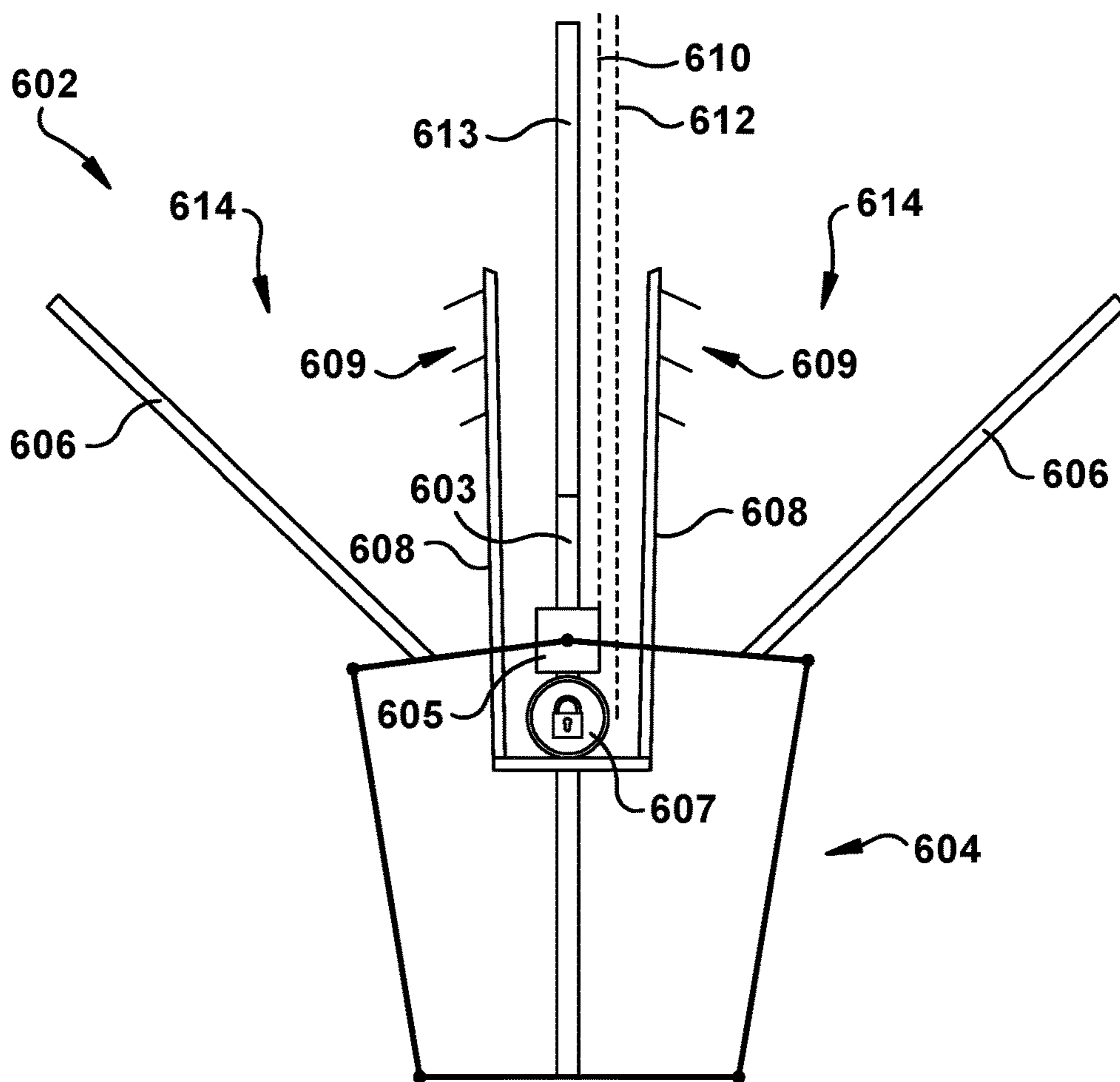


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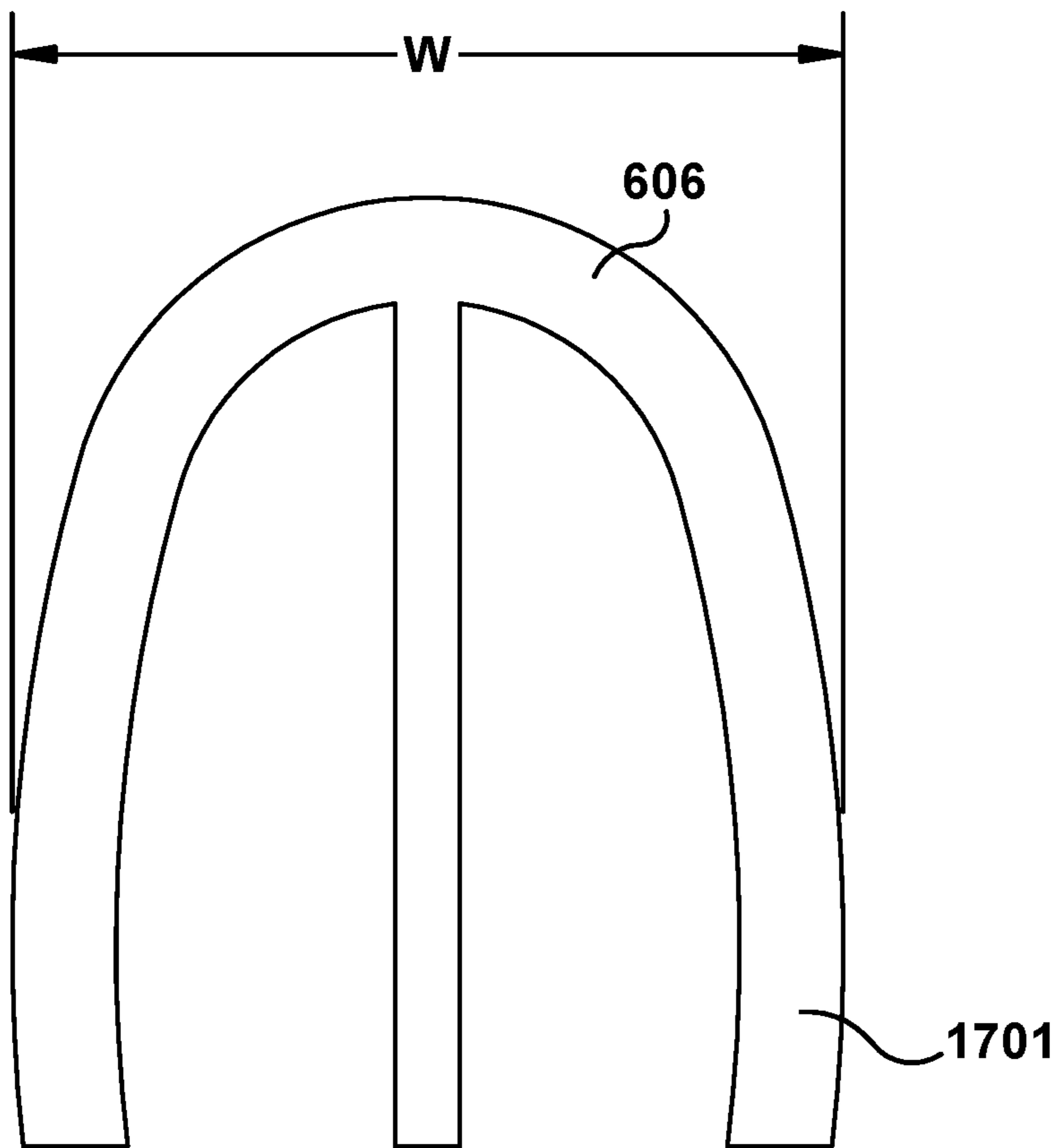


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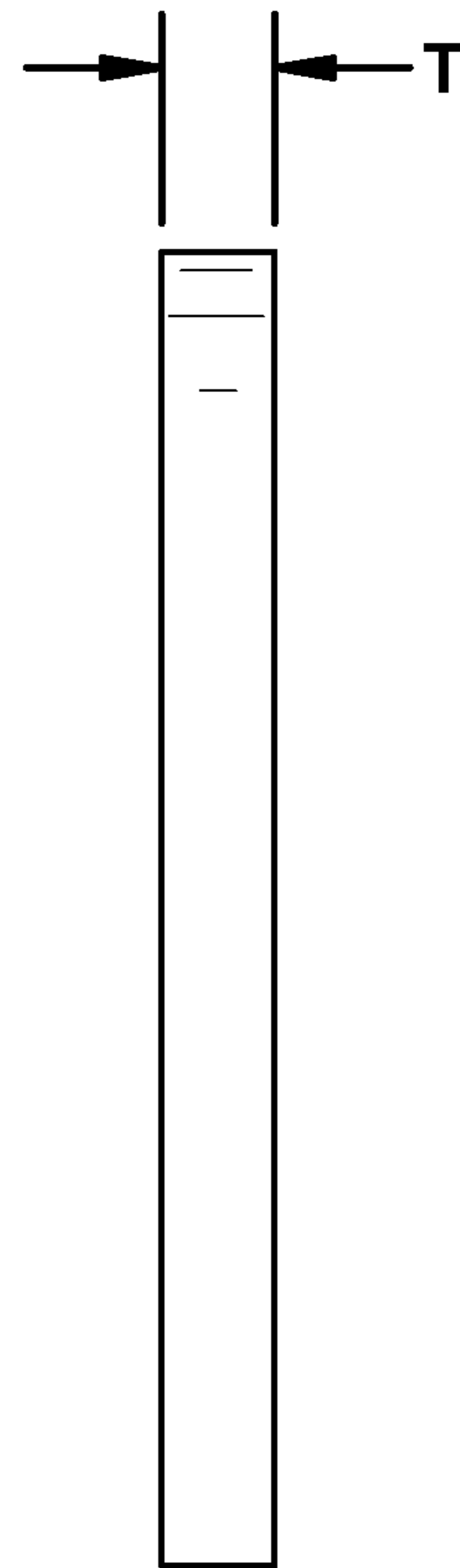


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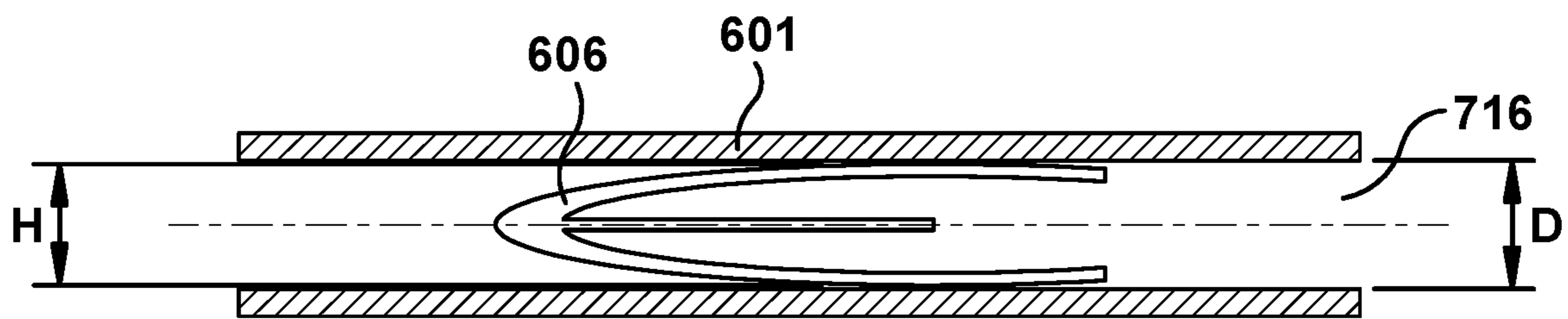
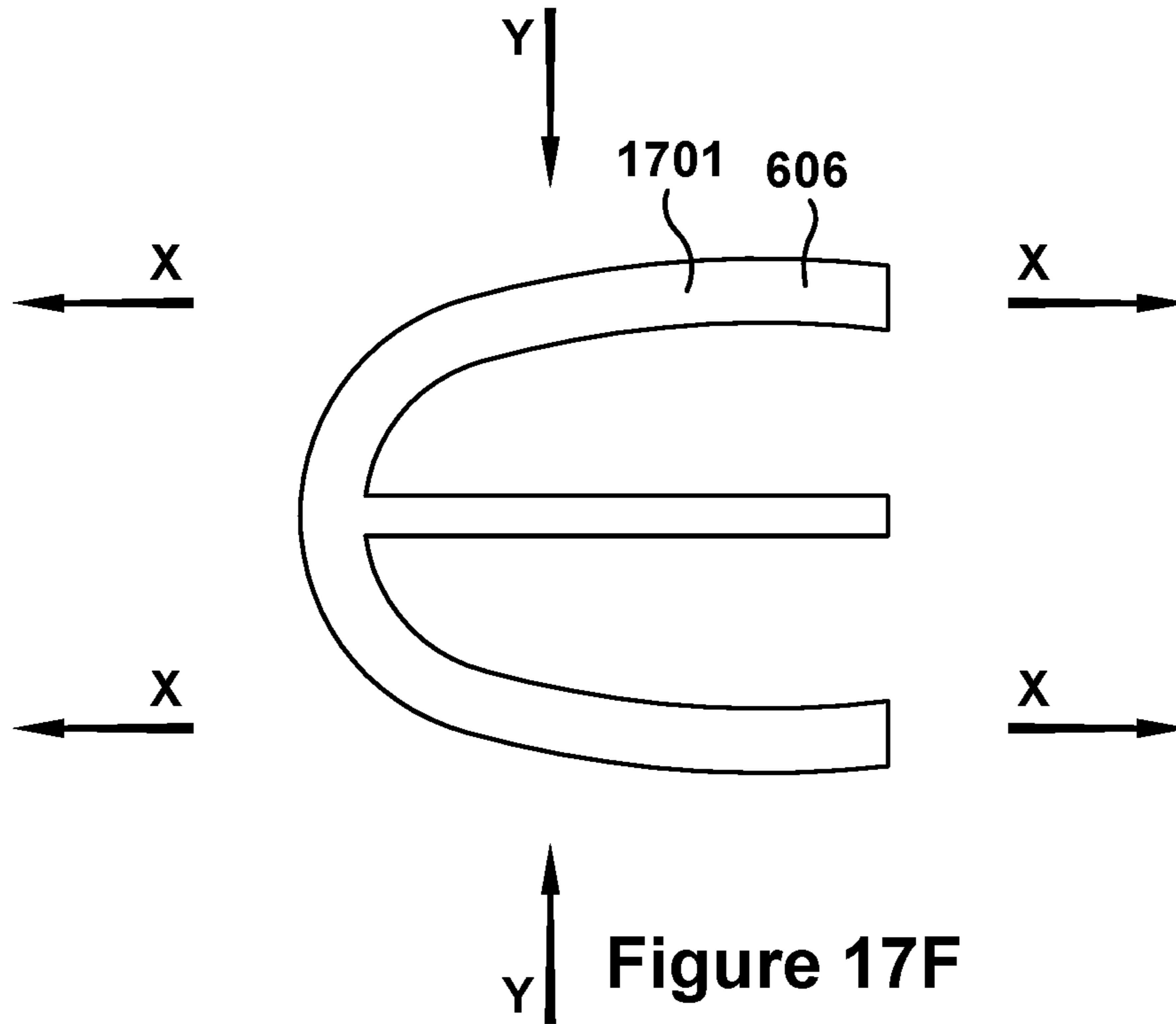


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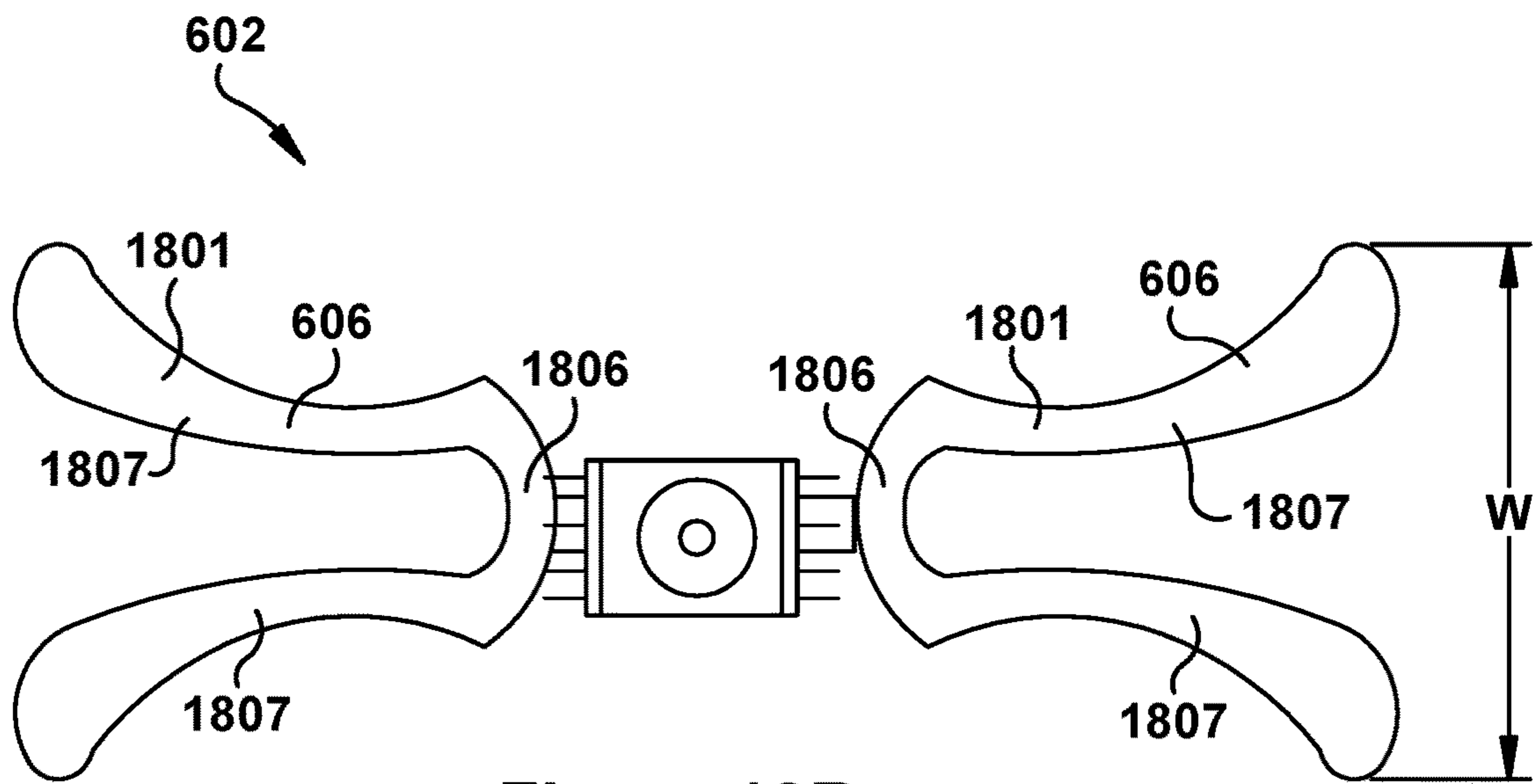


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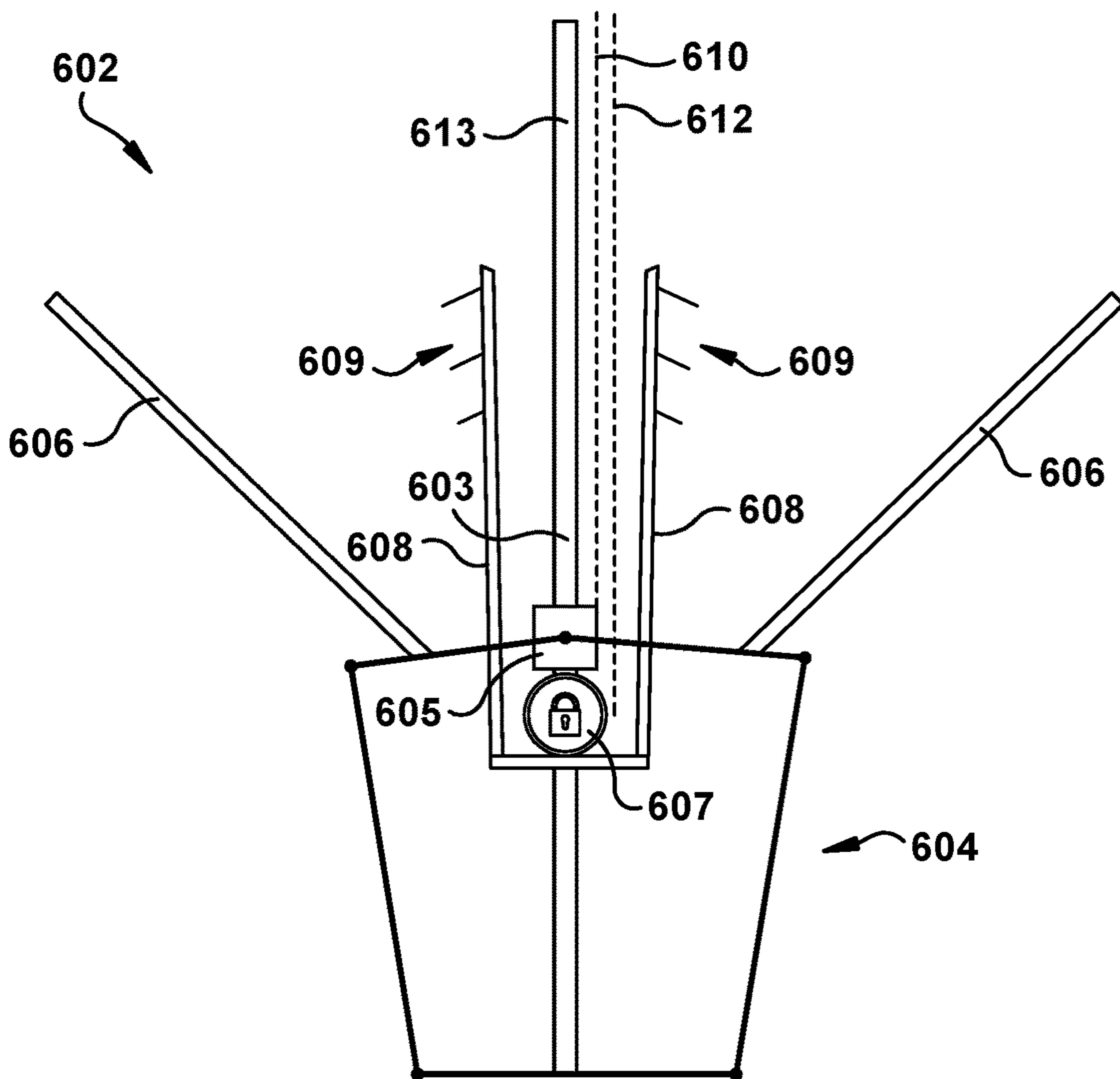


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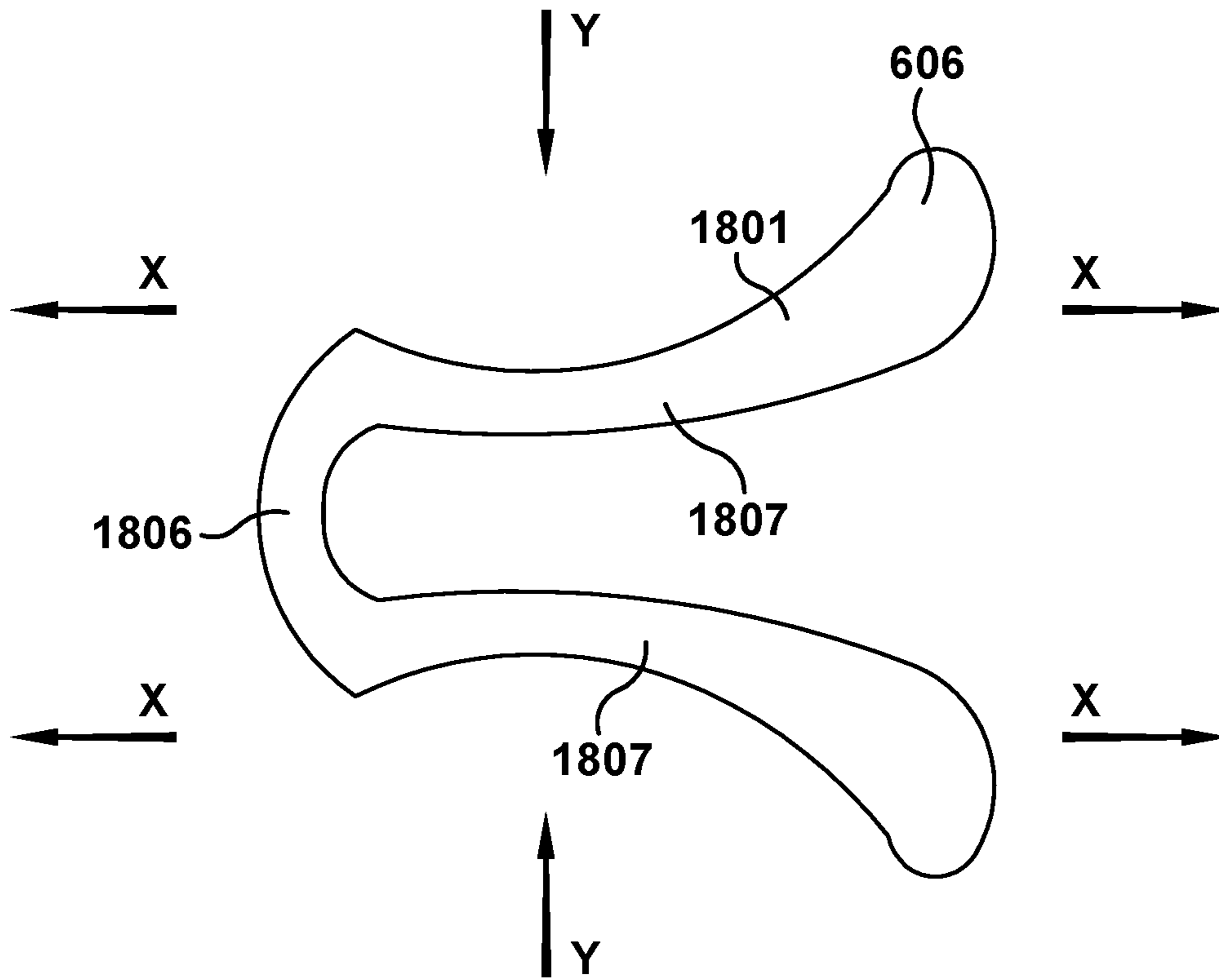


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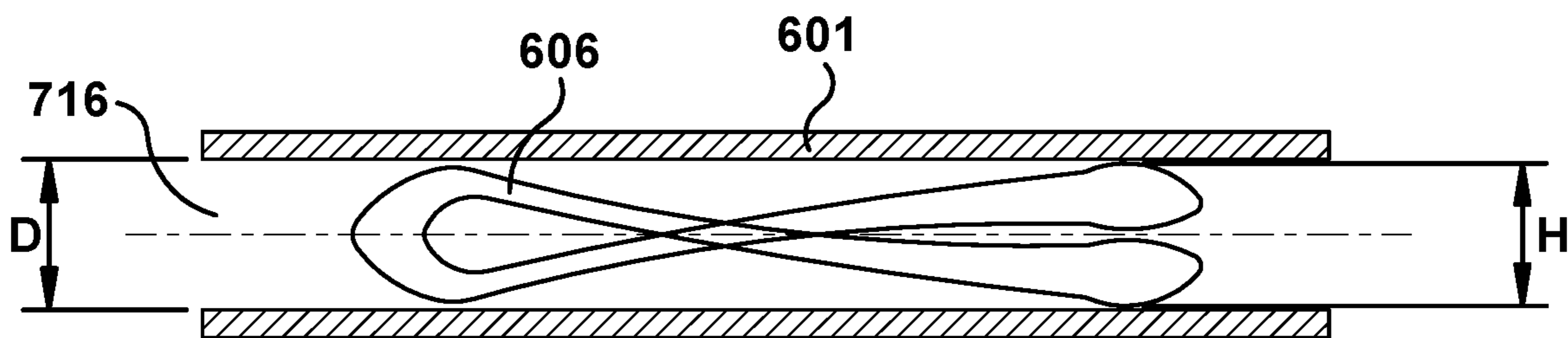


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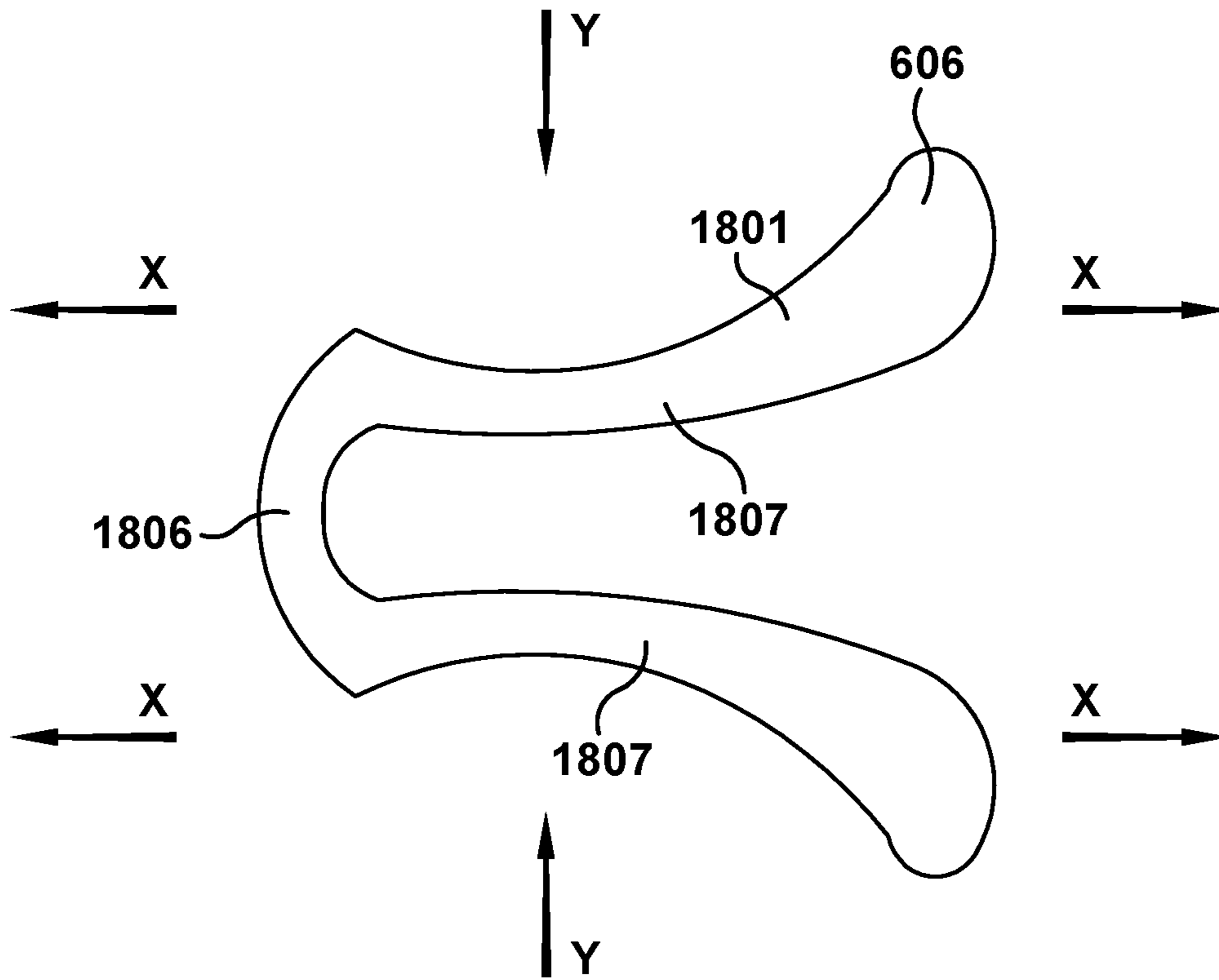


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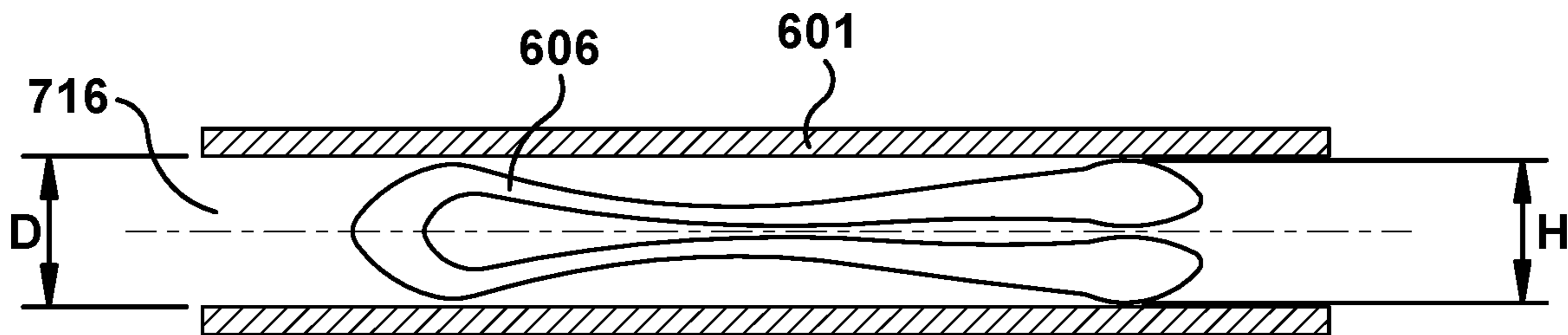


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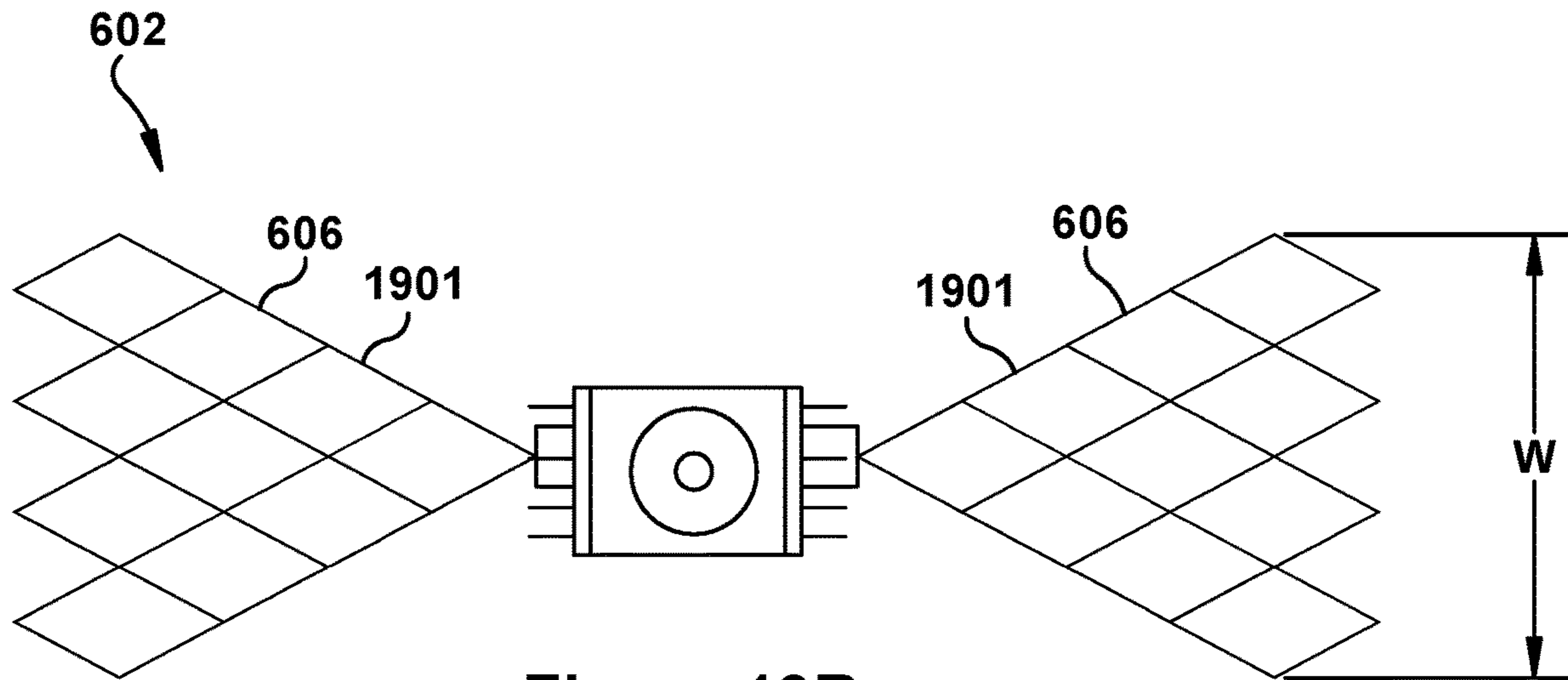


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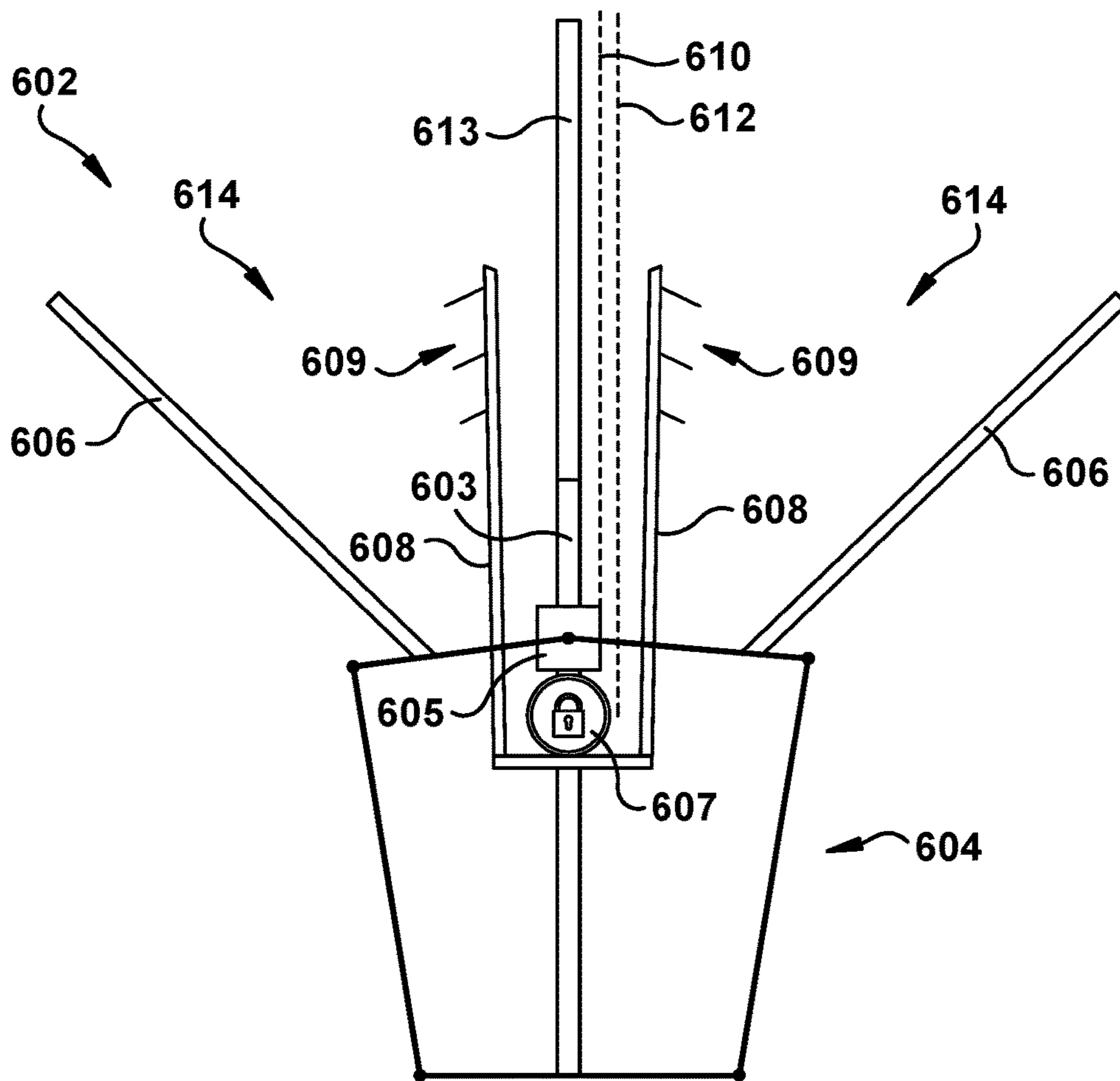


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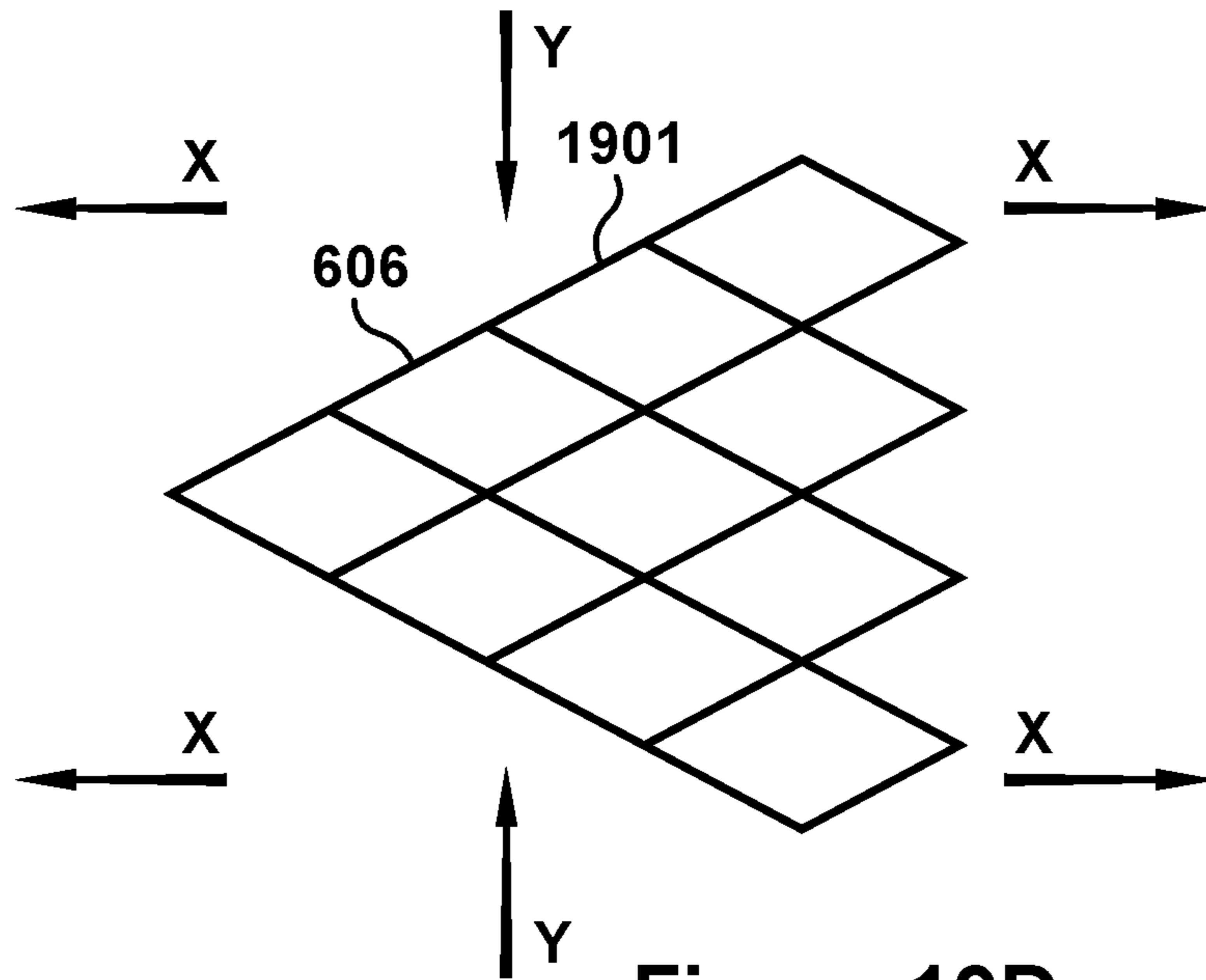


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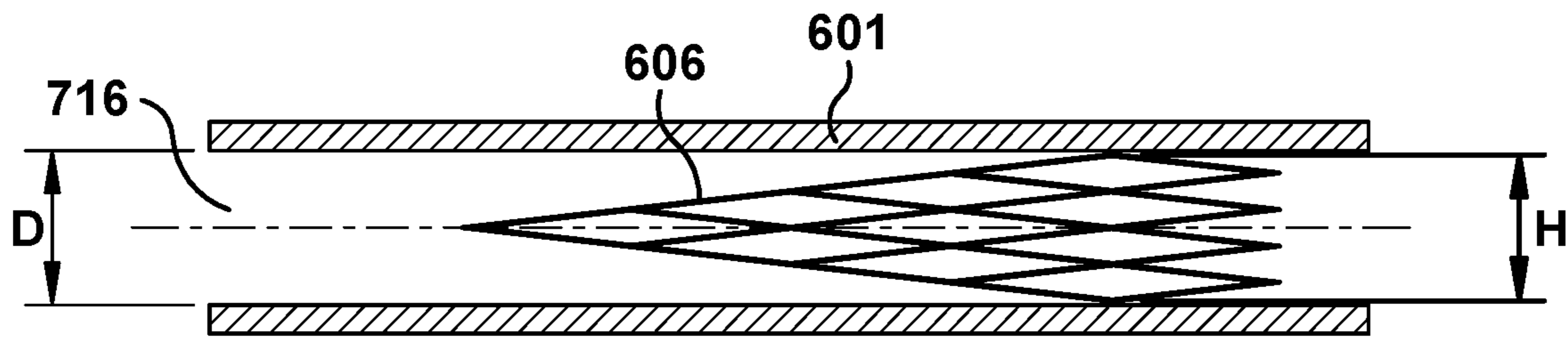


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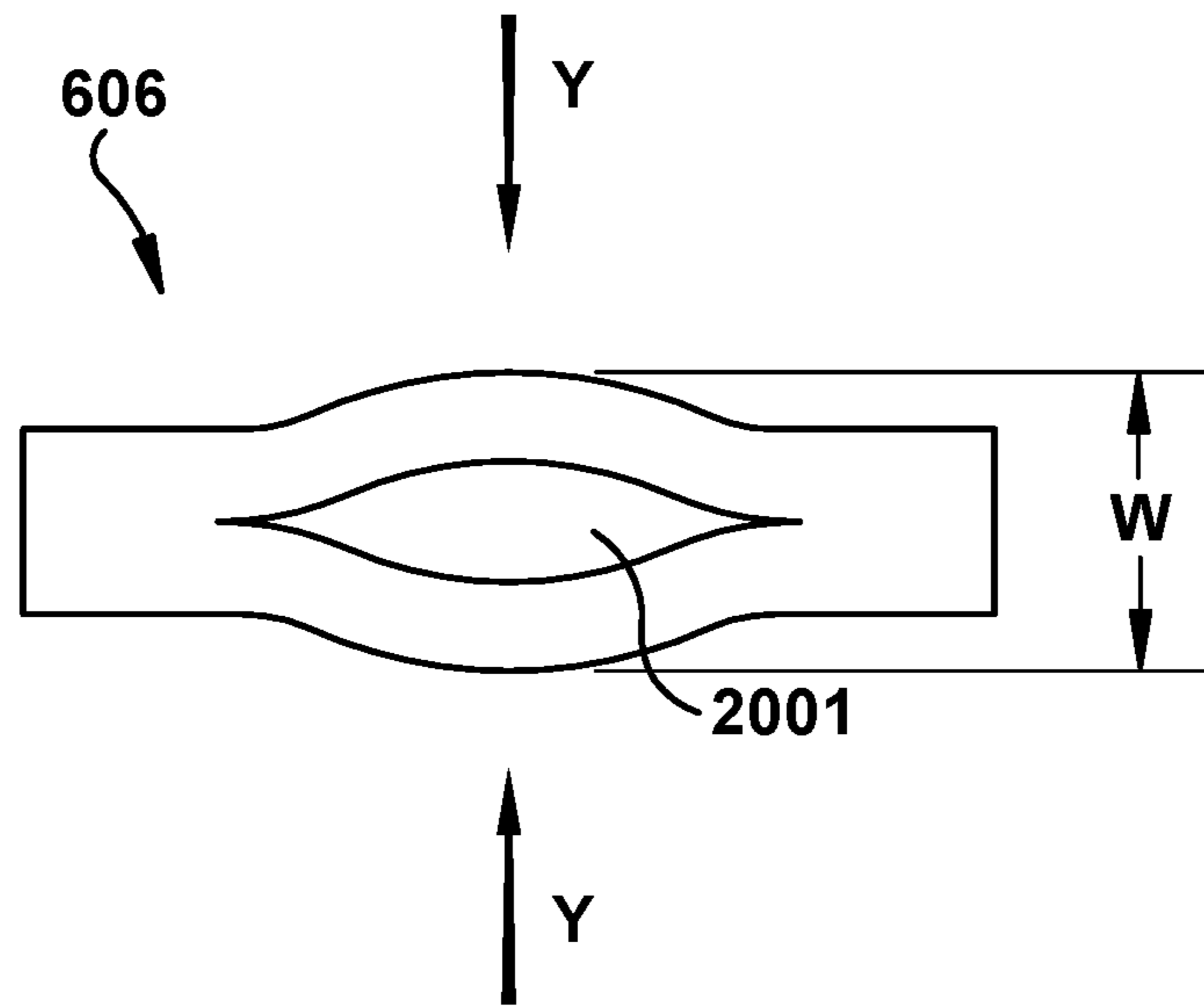


Figure 20B

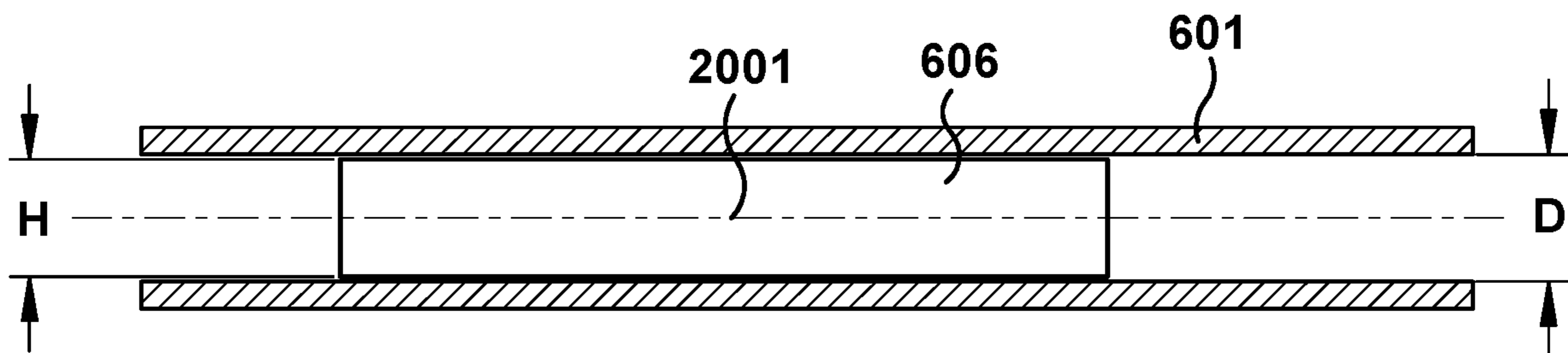


Figure 20A

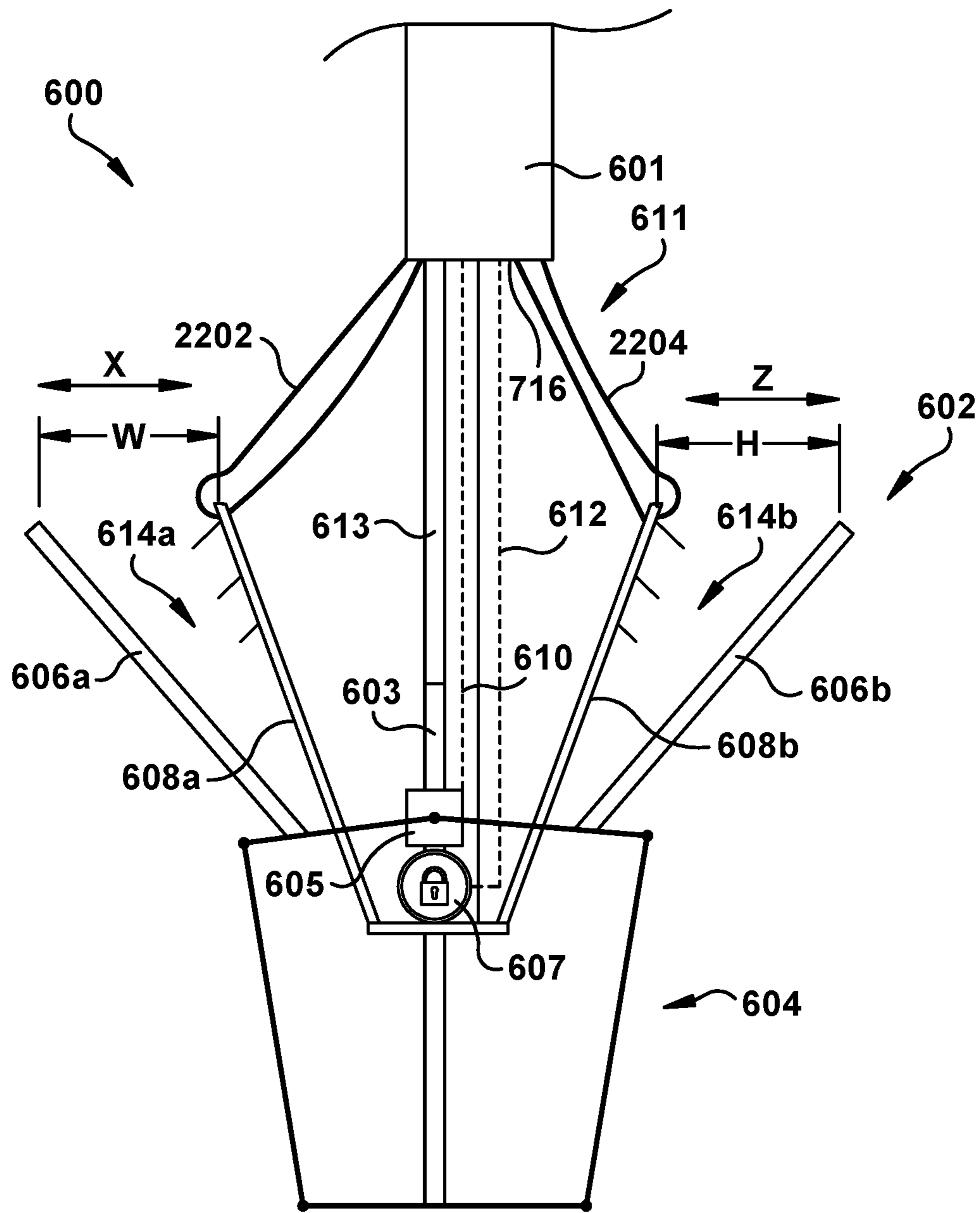


Figure 22

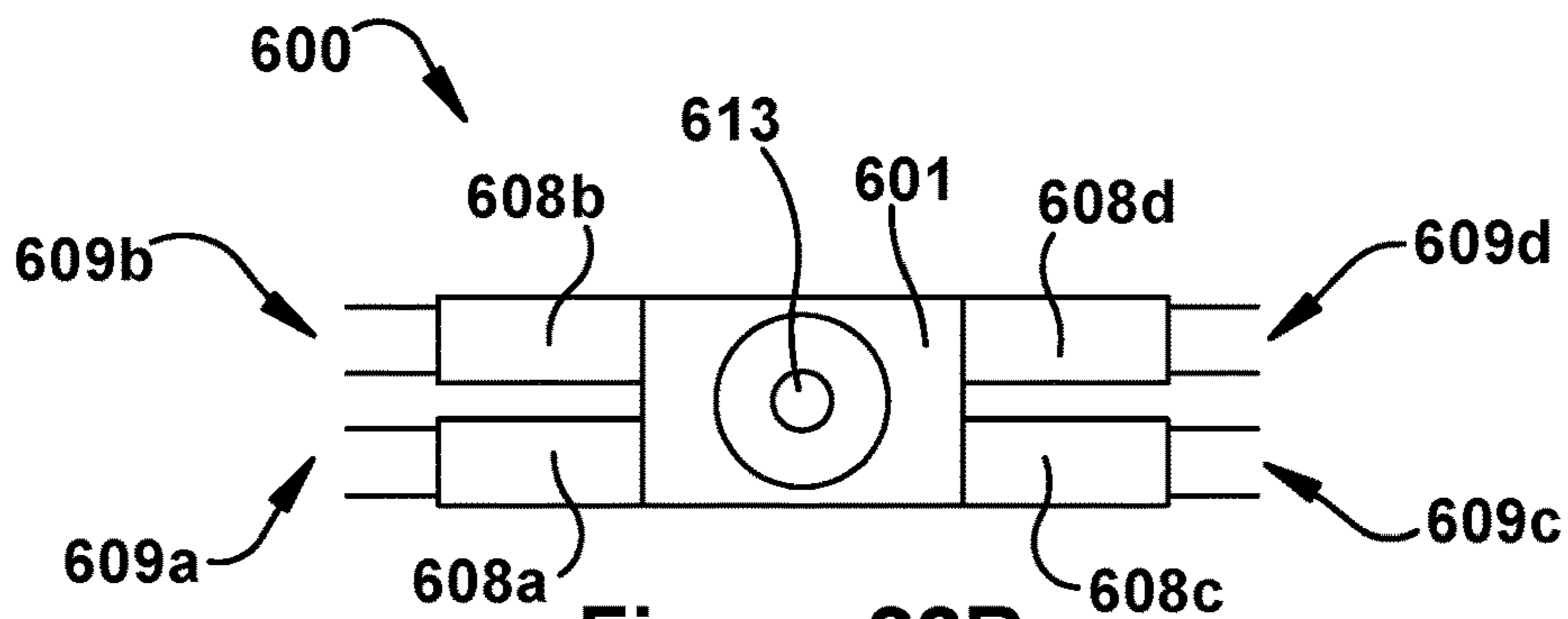


Figure 22B

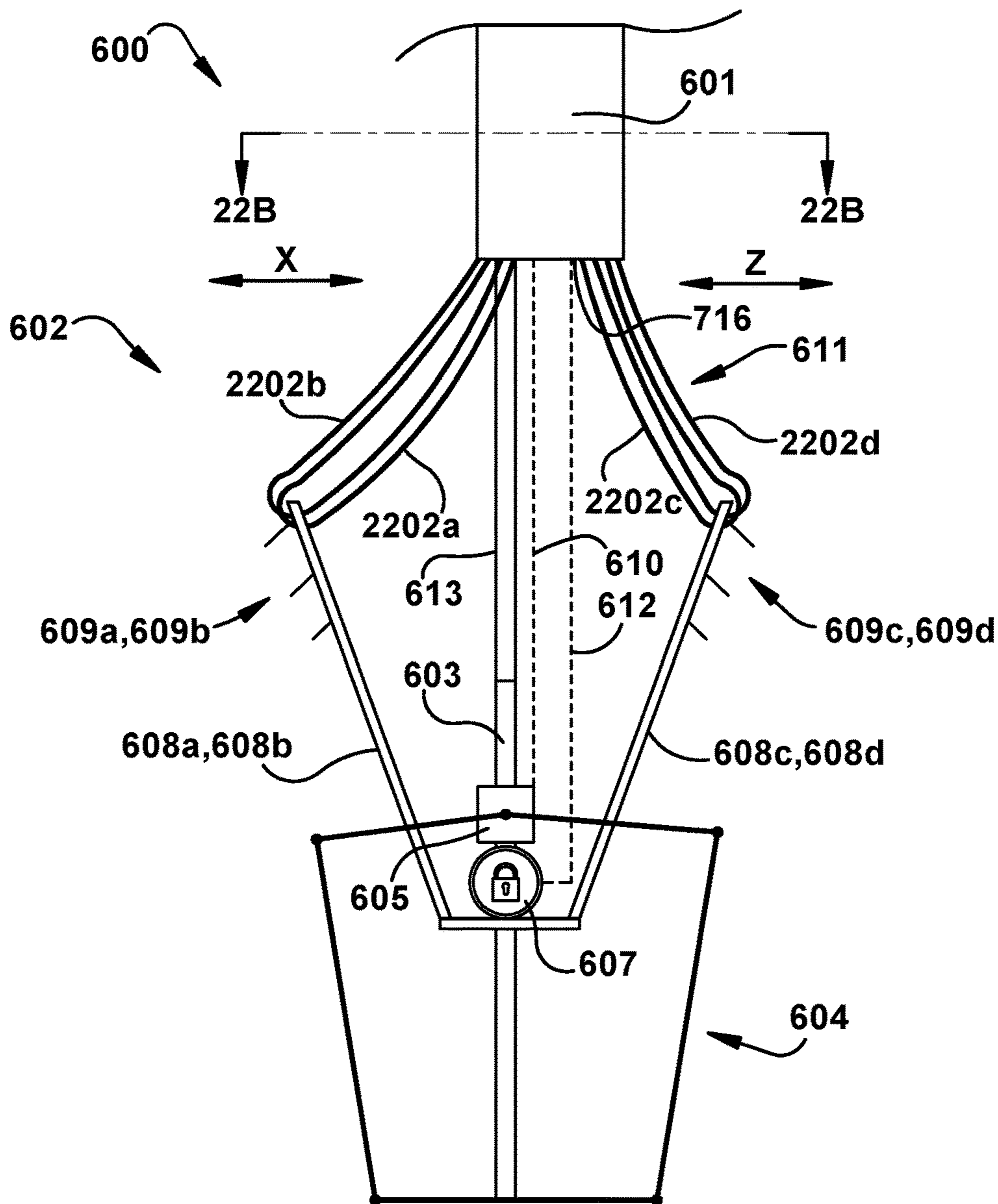
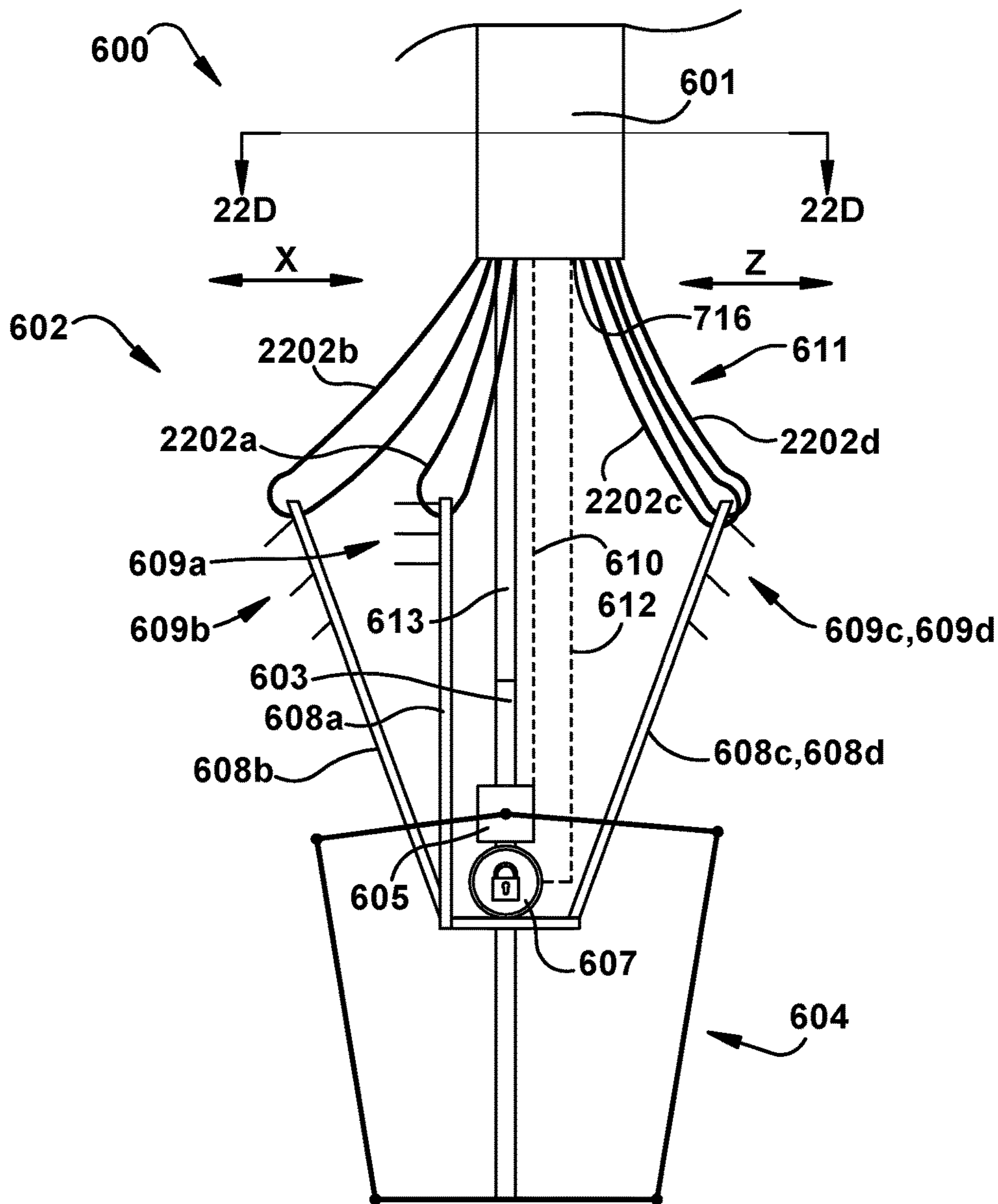
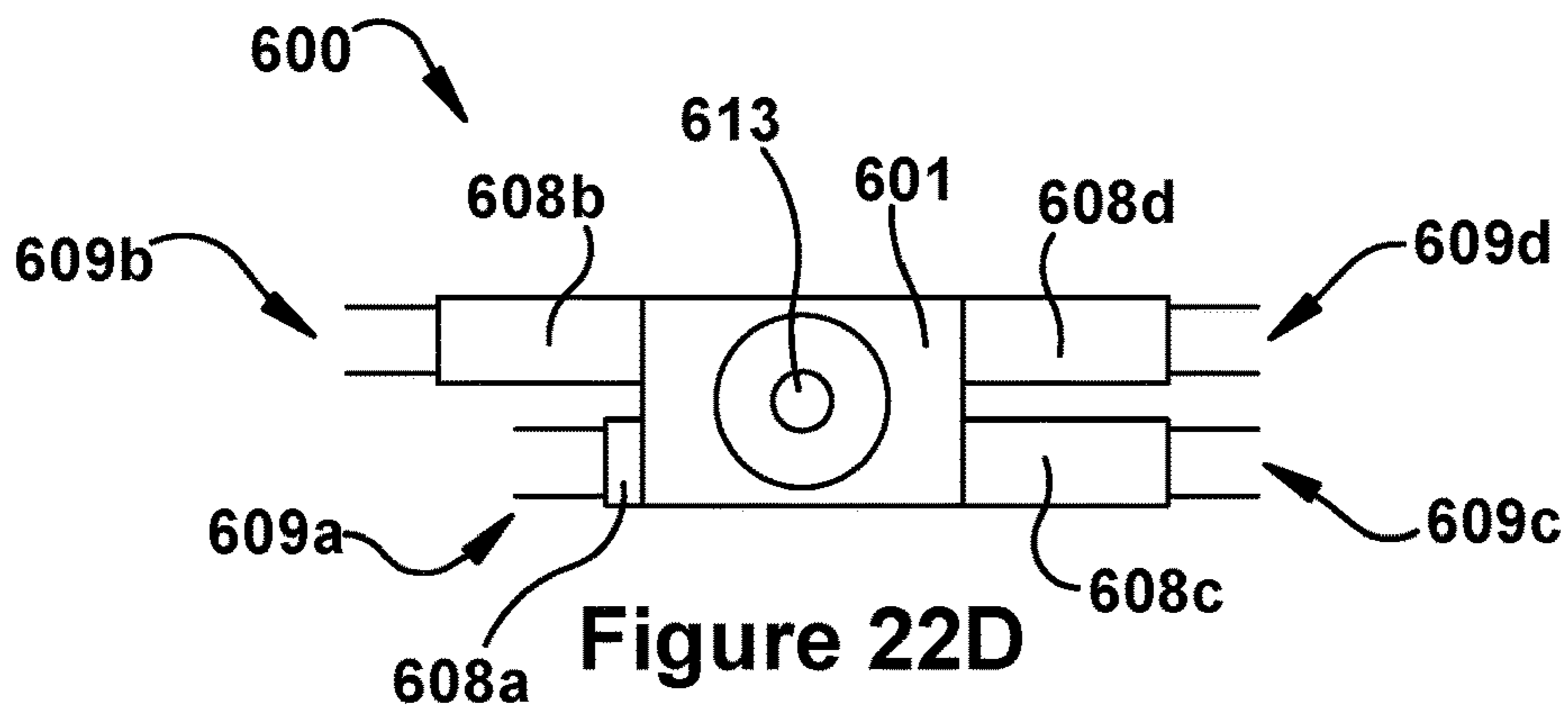


Figure 22A



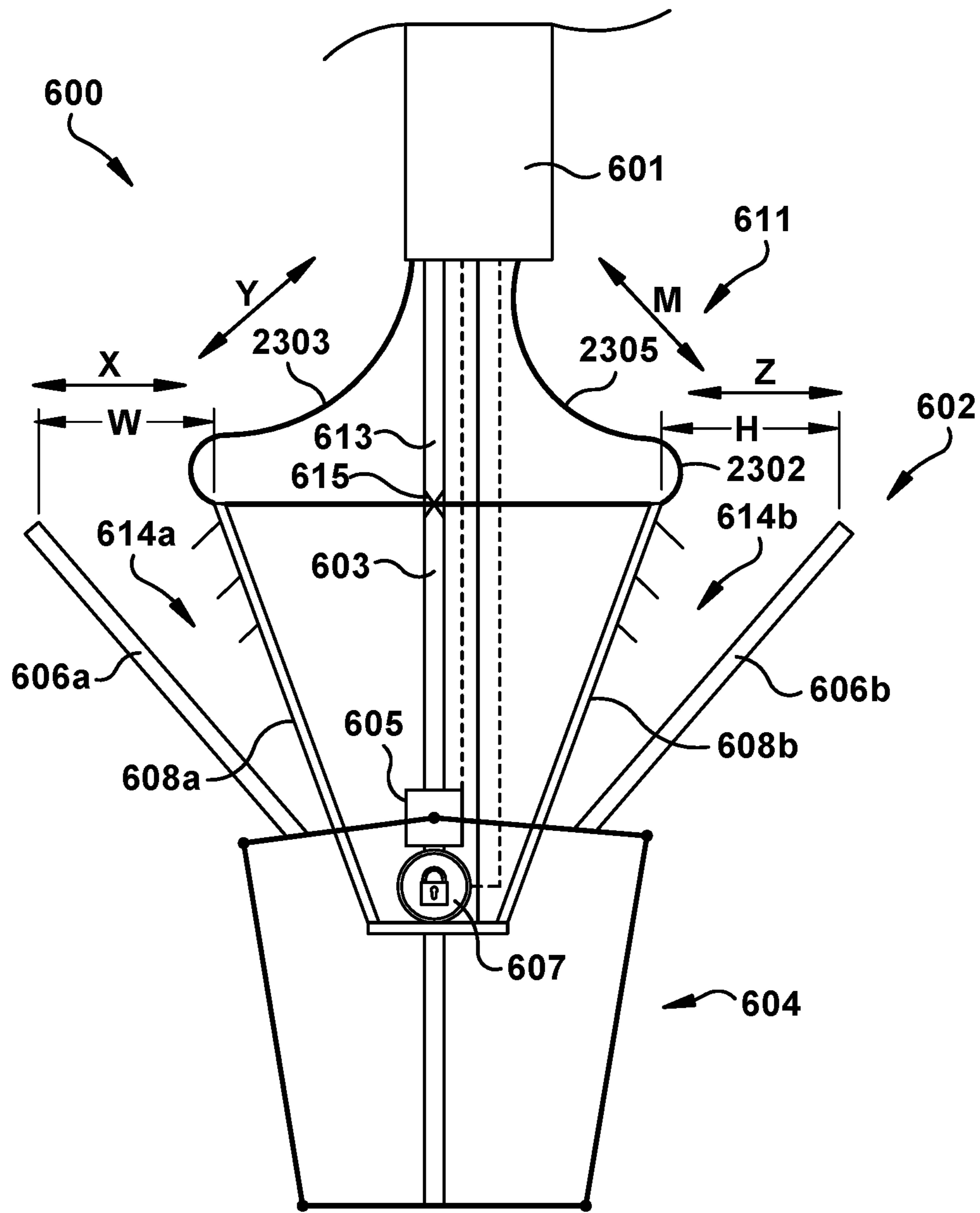


Figure 23

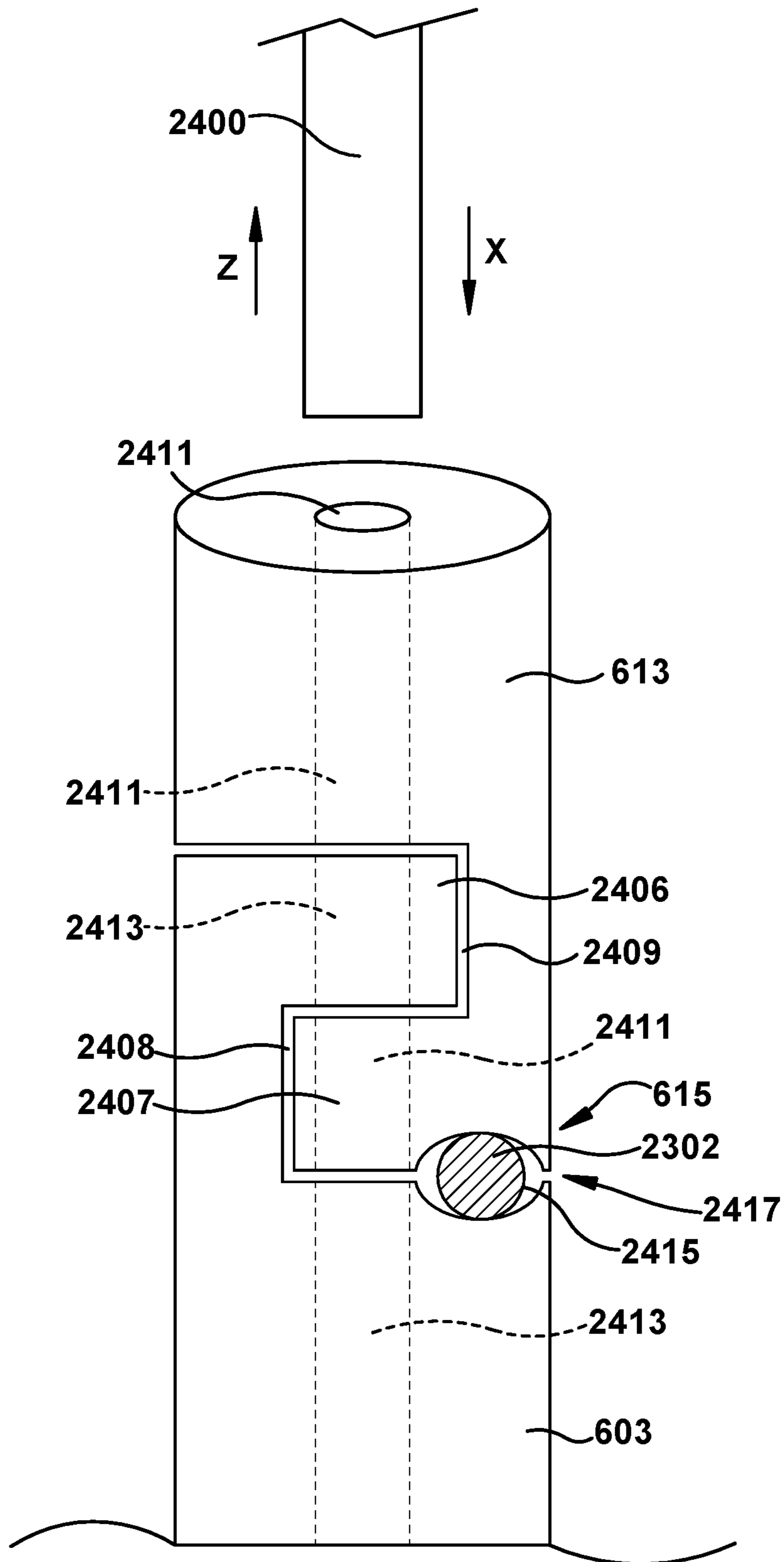


Figure 24

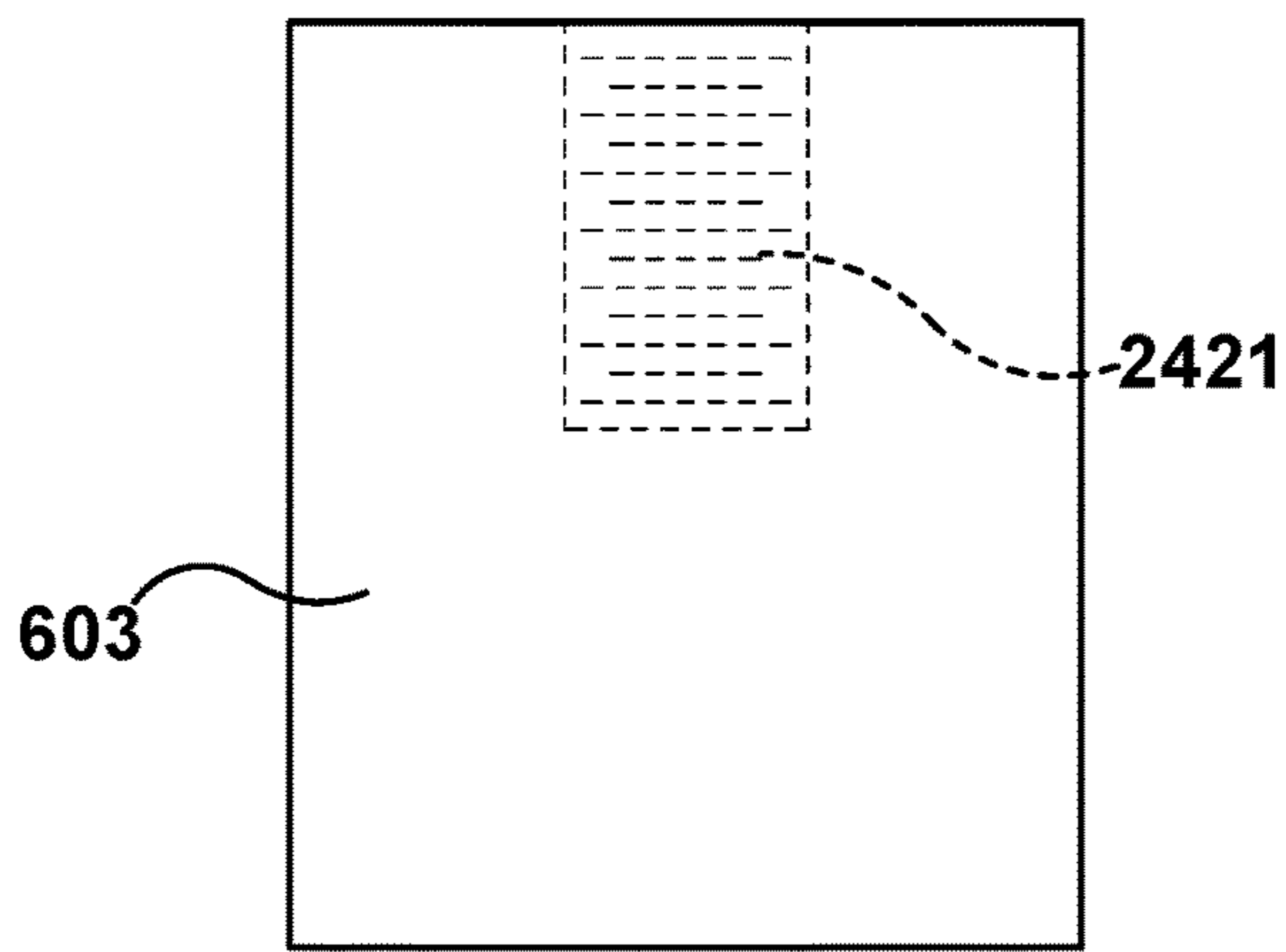
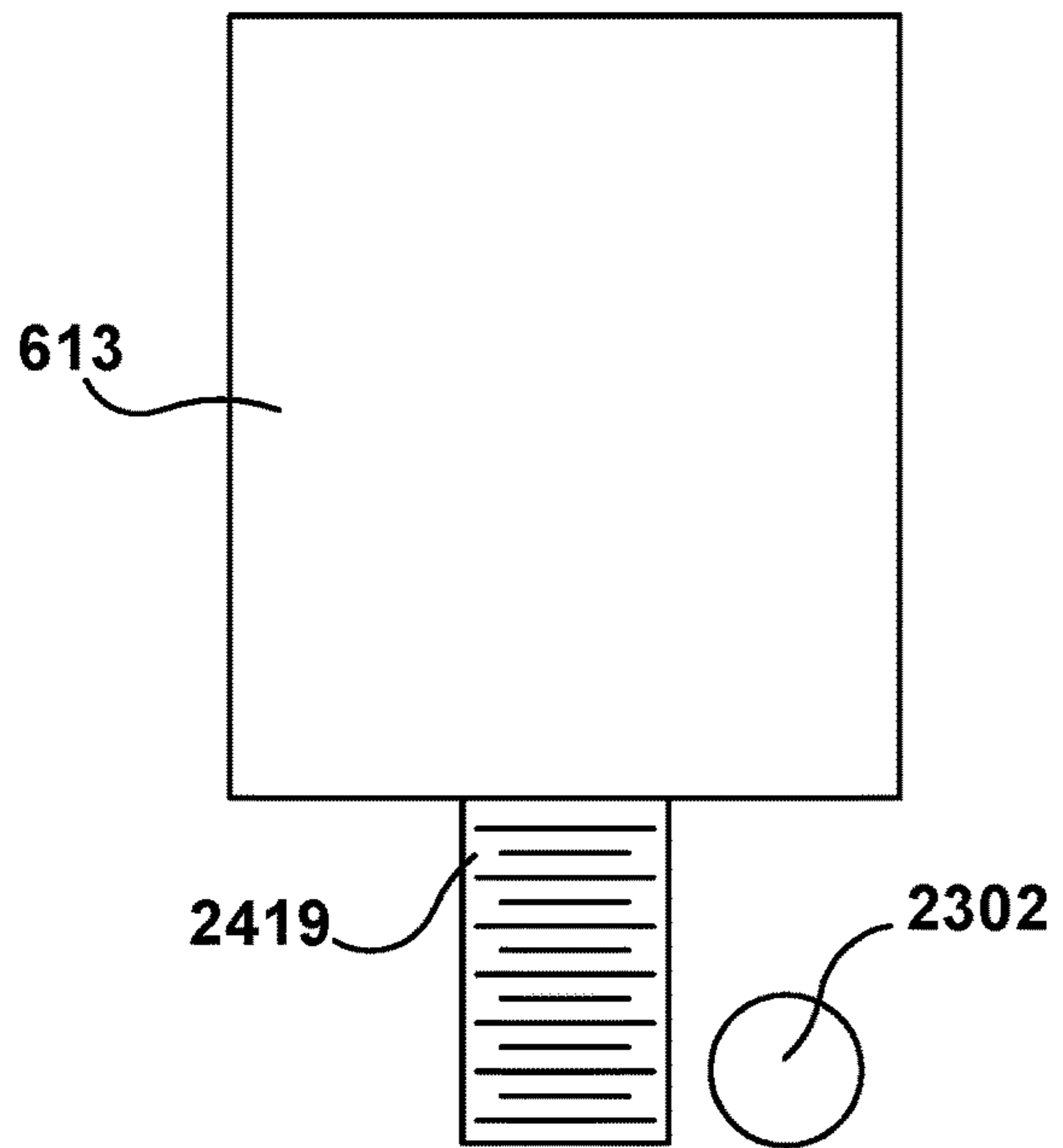


Figure 24A

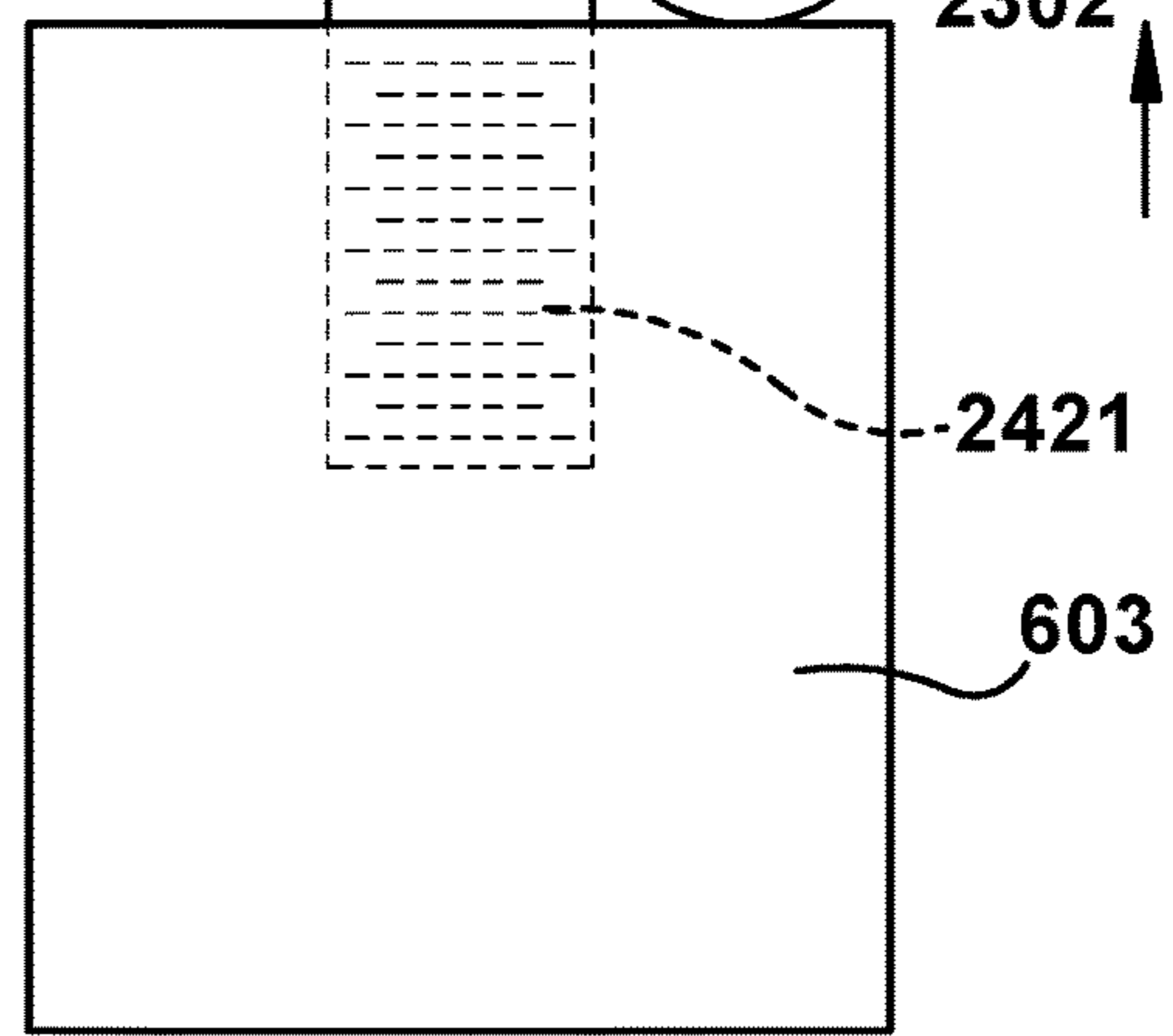
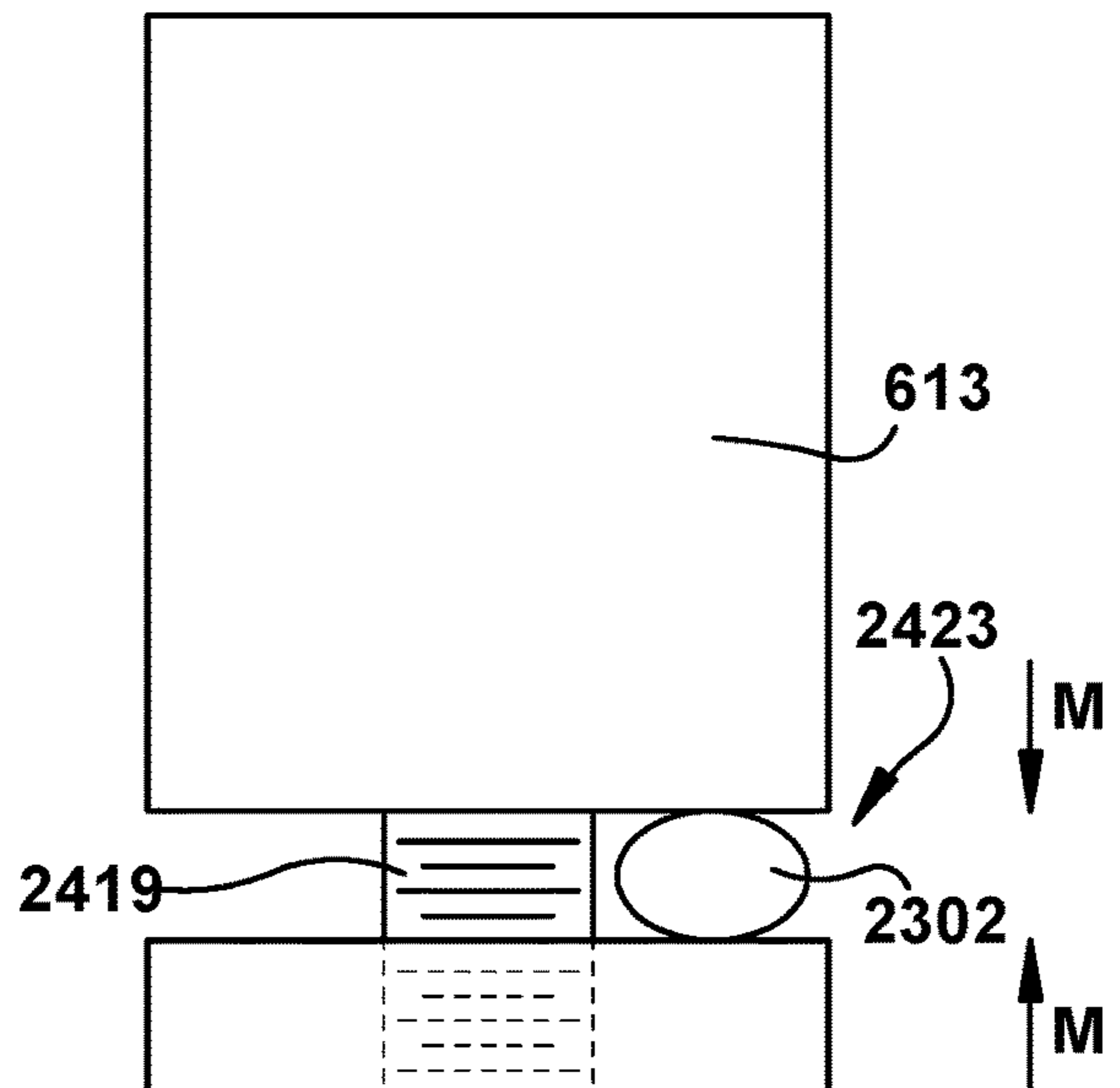


Figure 24B

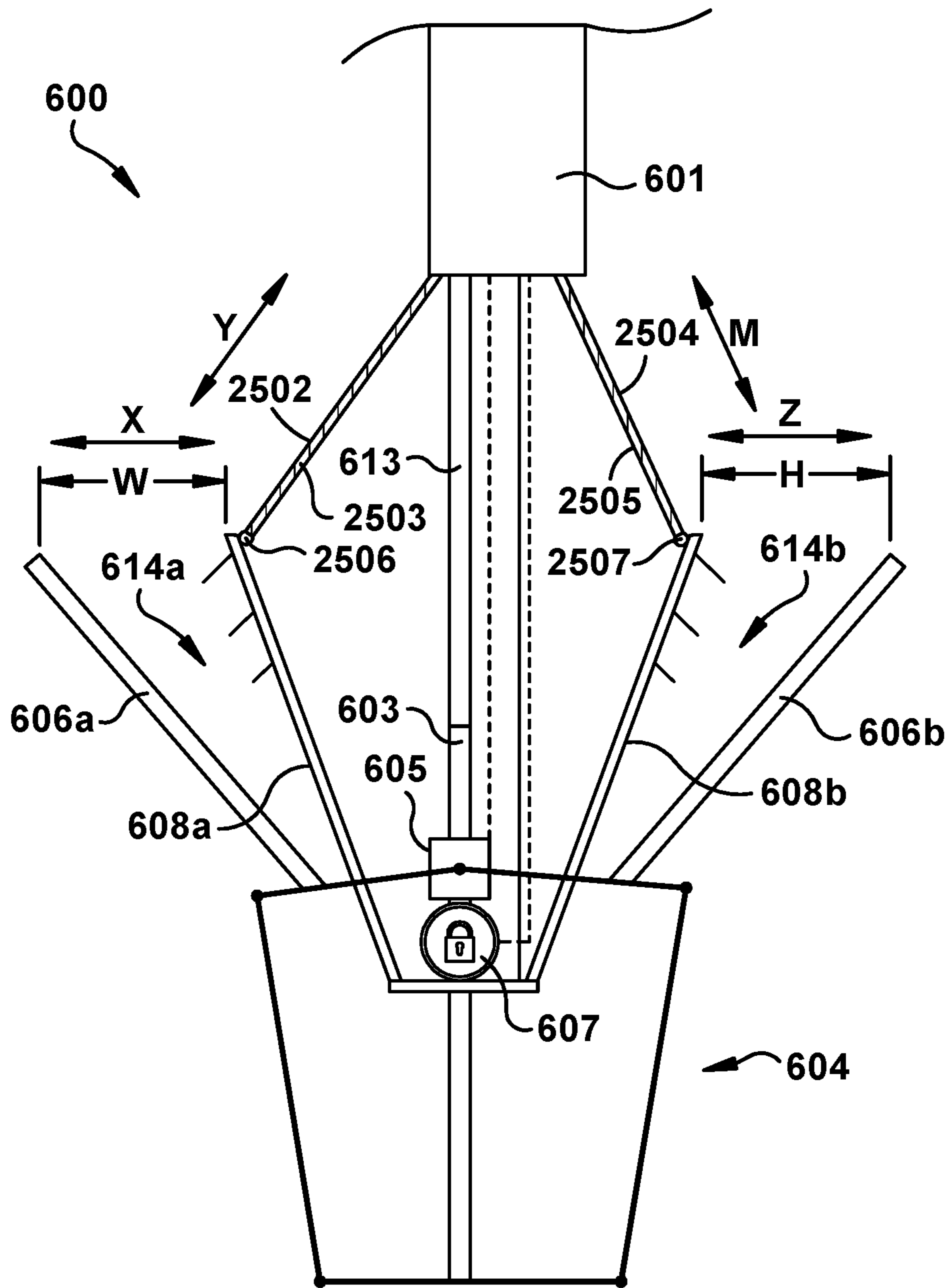


Figure 25

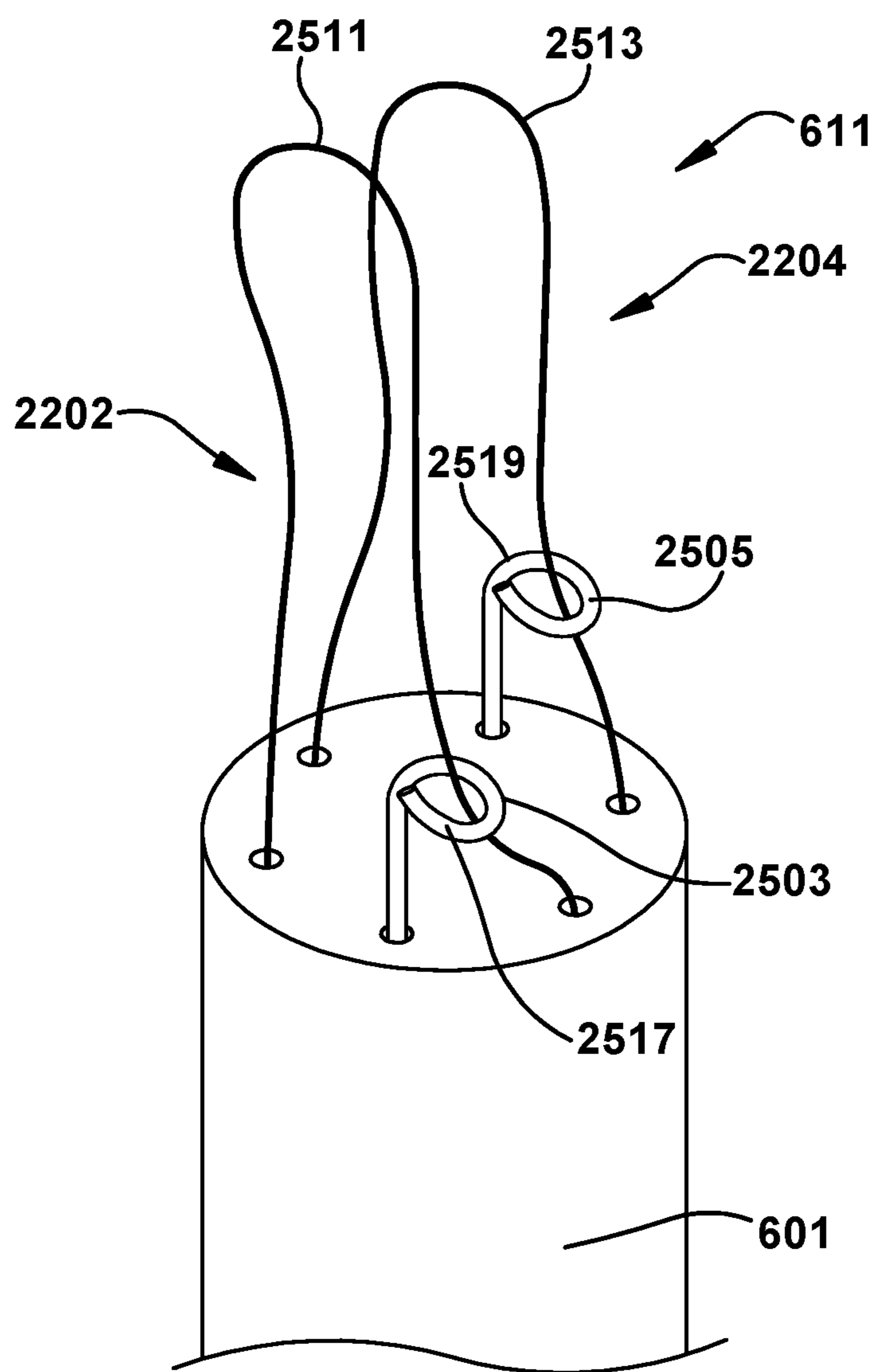


Figure 25A

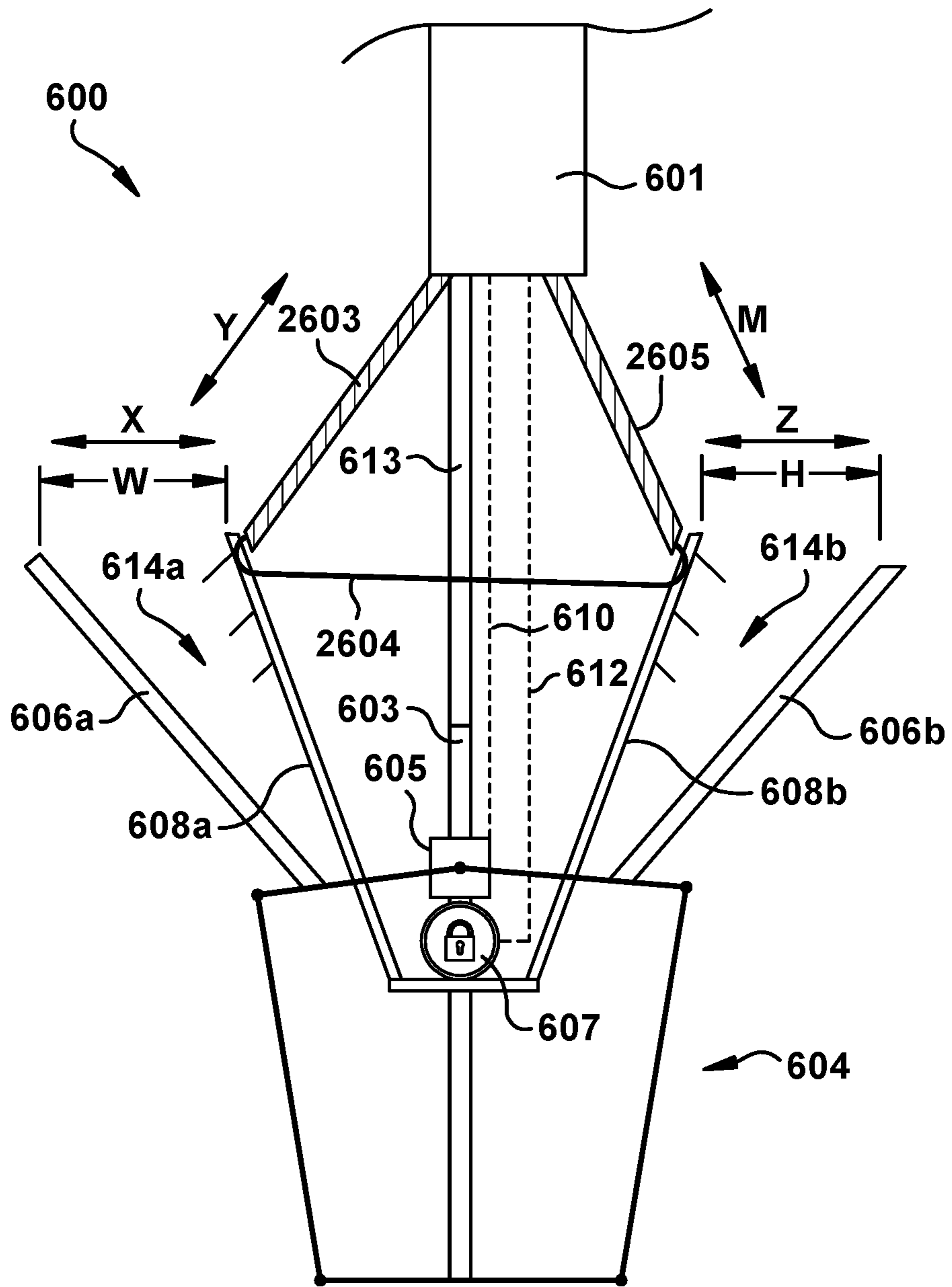


Figure 26

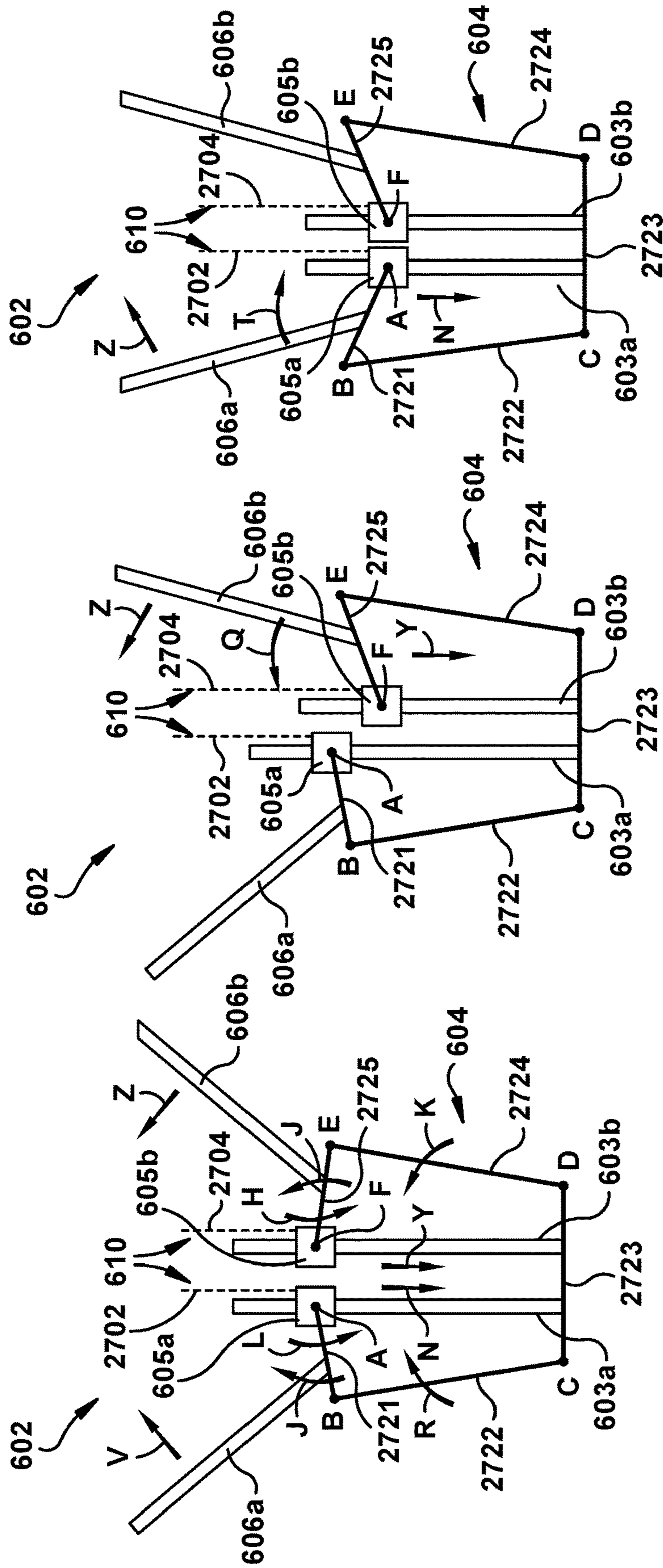


Figure 27A

Figure 27B

Figure 27C

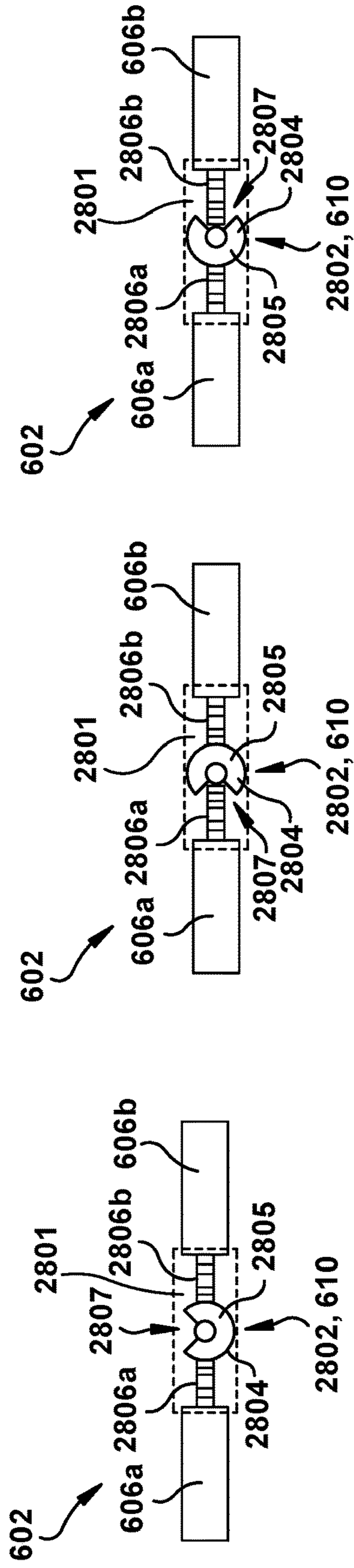


Figure 28B

Figure 28D

Figure 28F

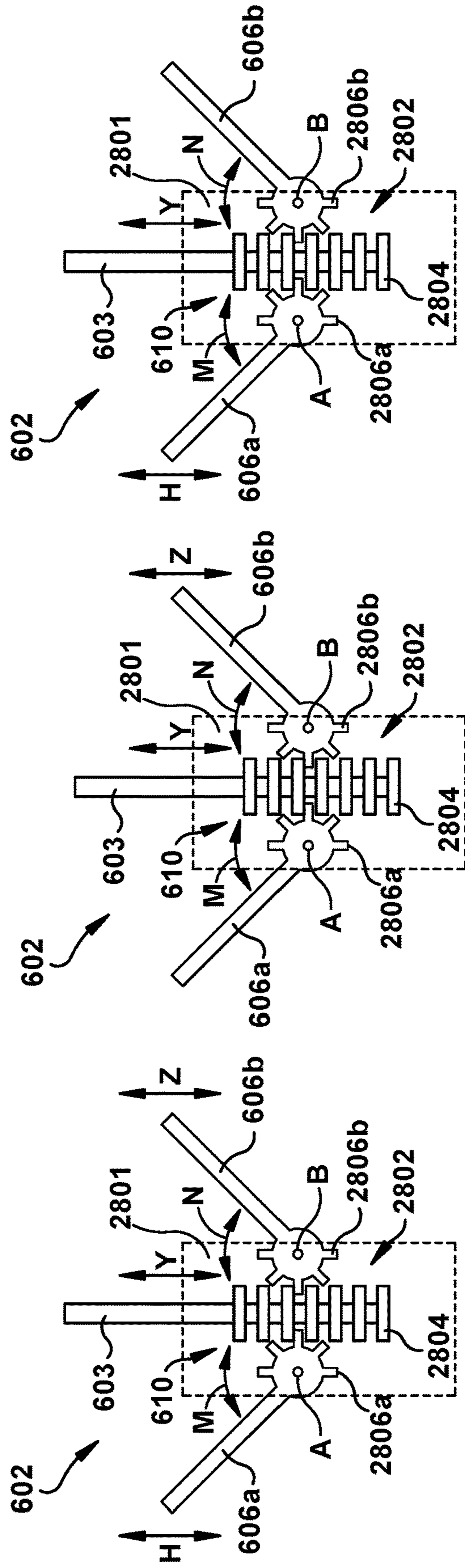


Figure 28A

Figure 28C

Figure 28E

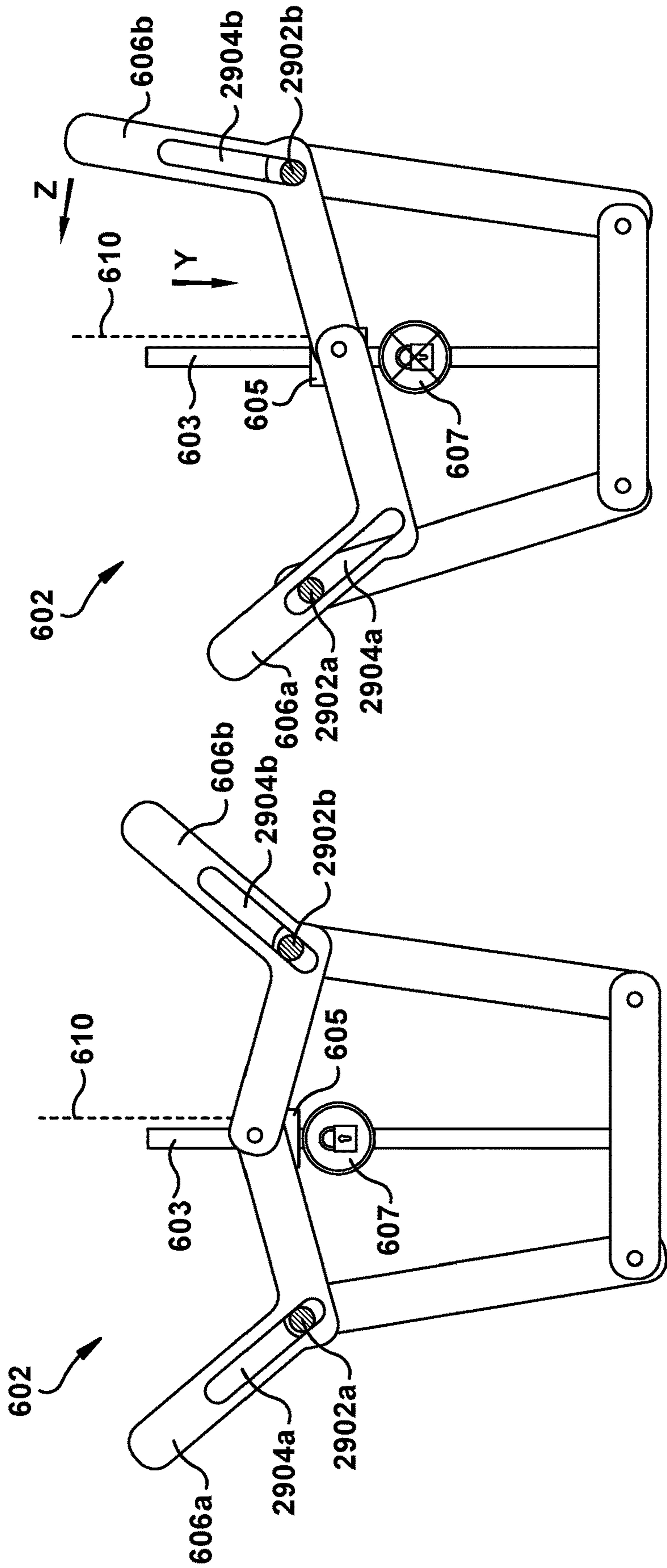


Figure 29B

Figure 29A

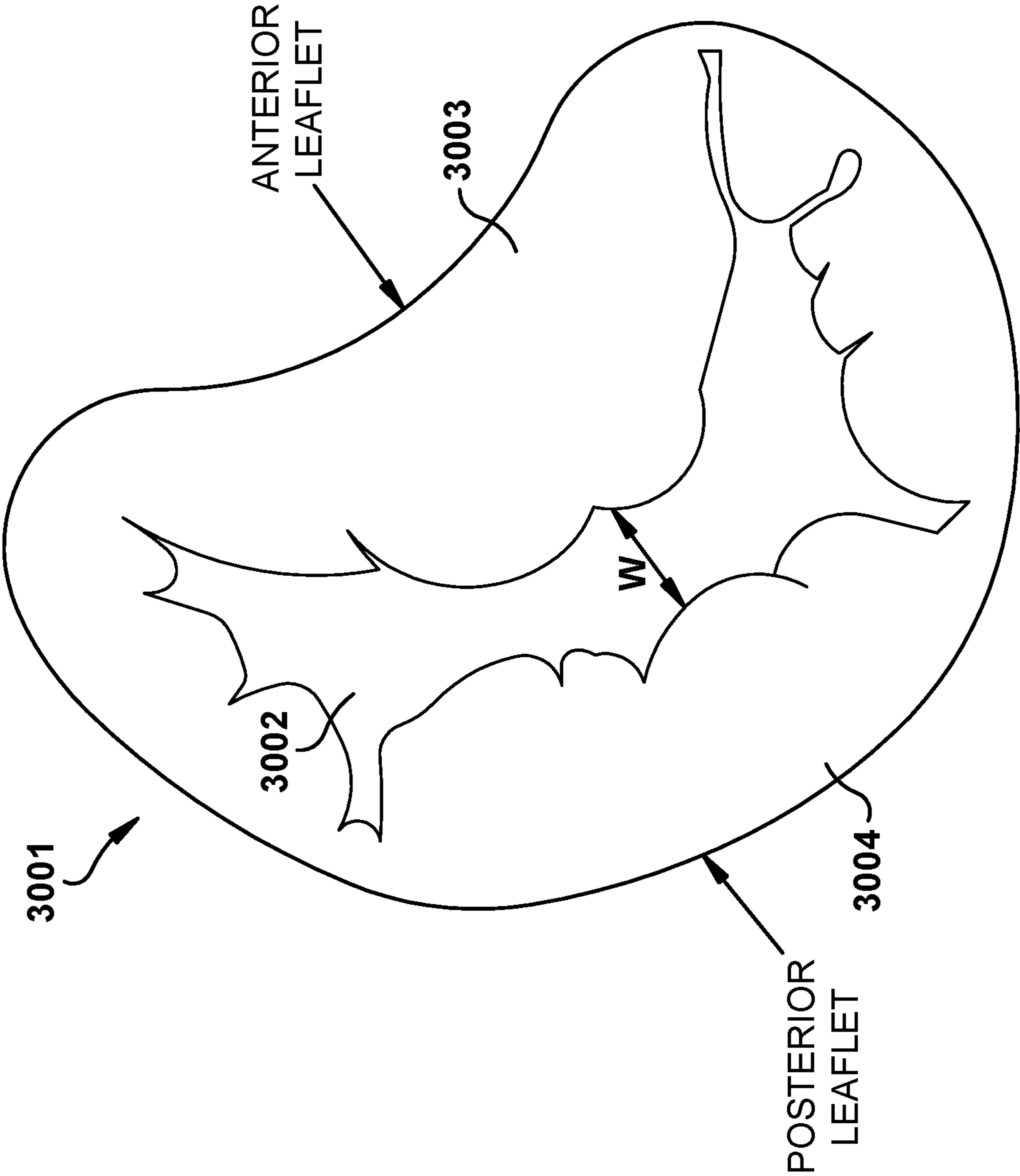


Figure 30

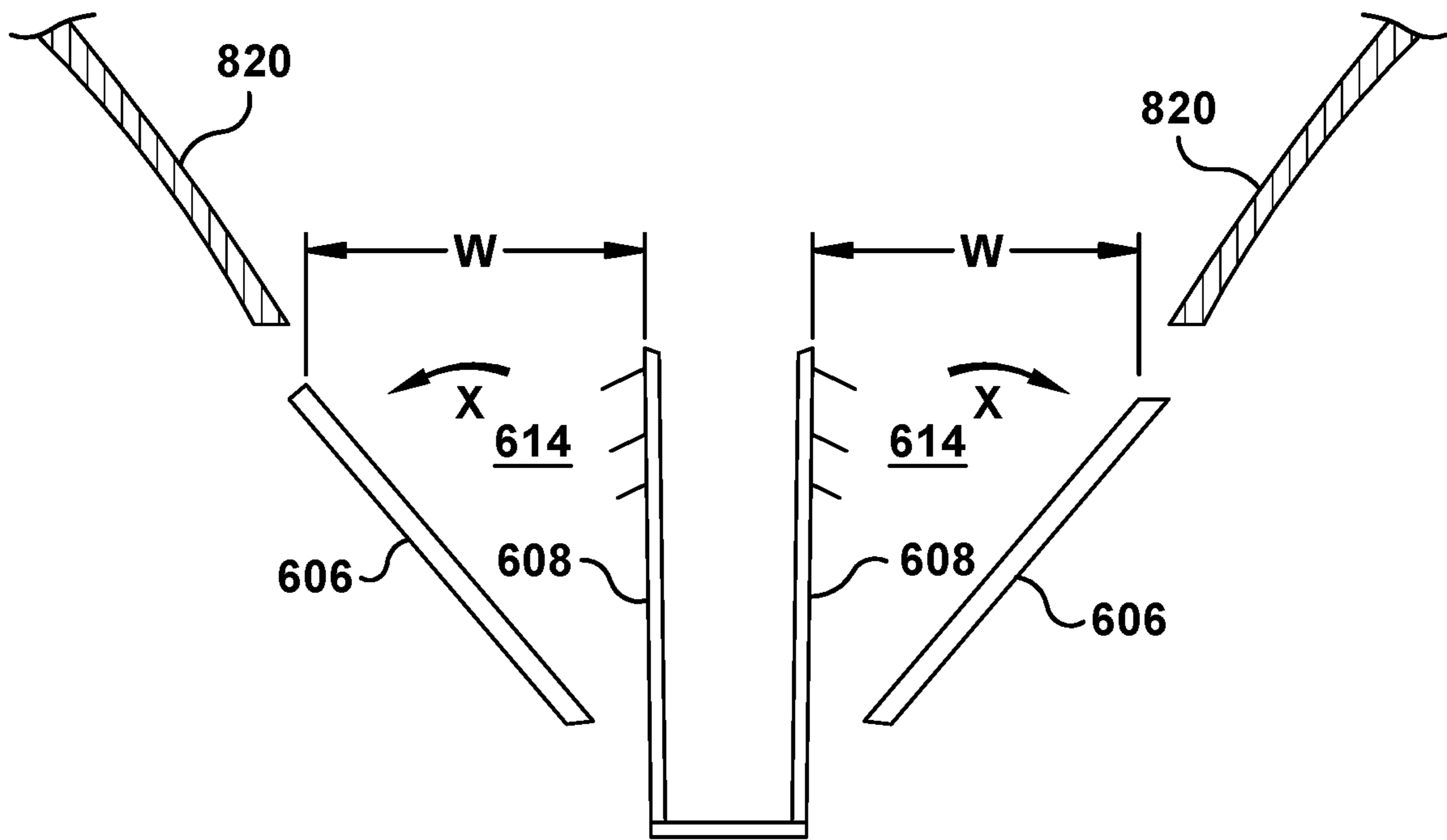


Figure 31A

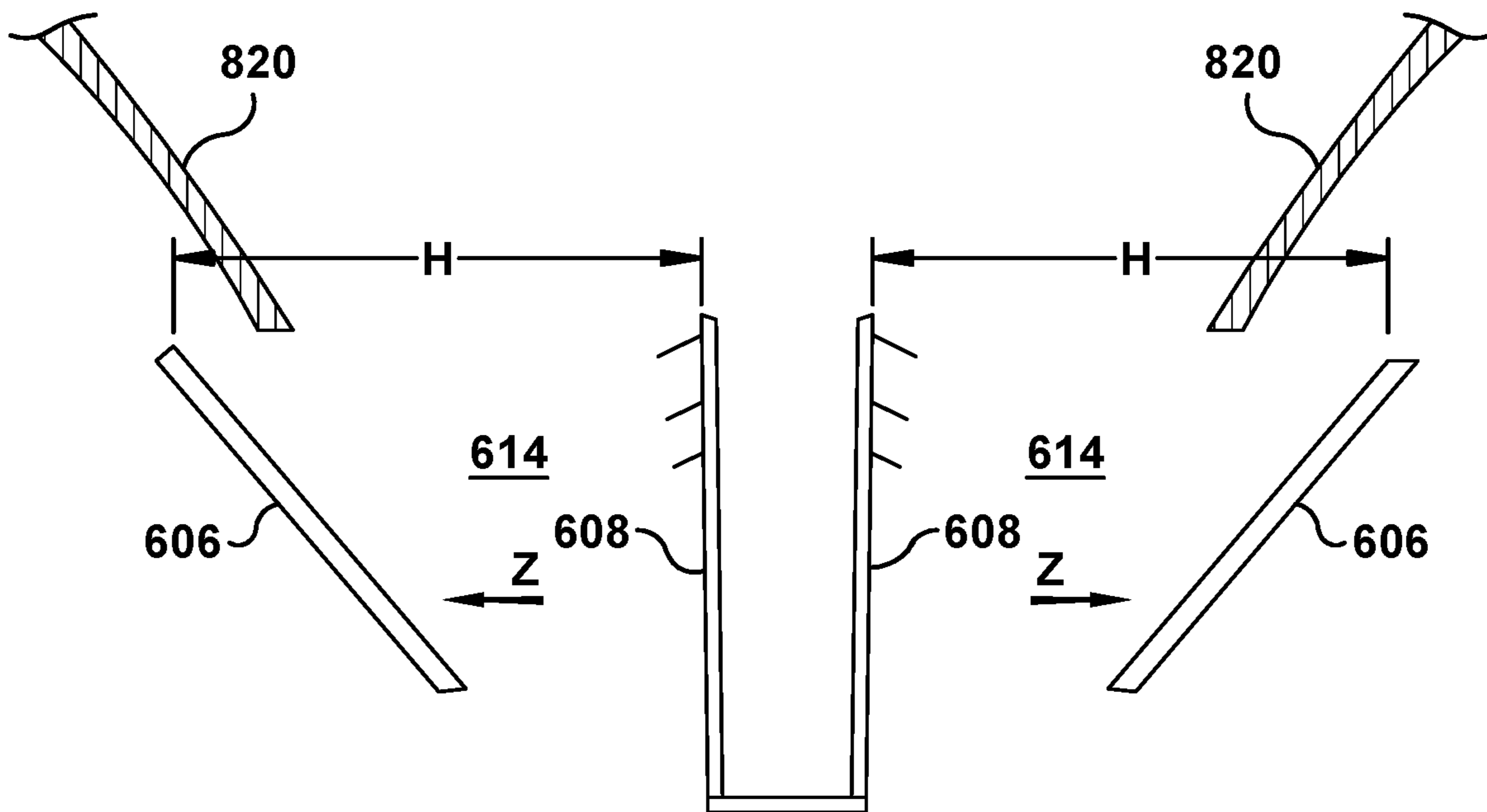


Figure 31B

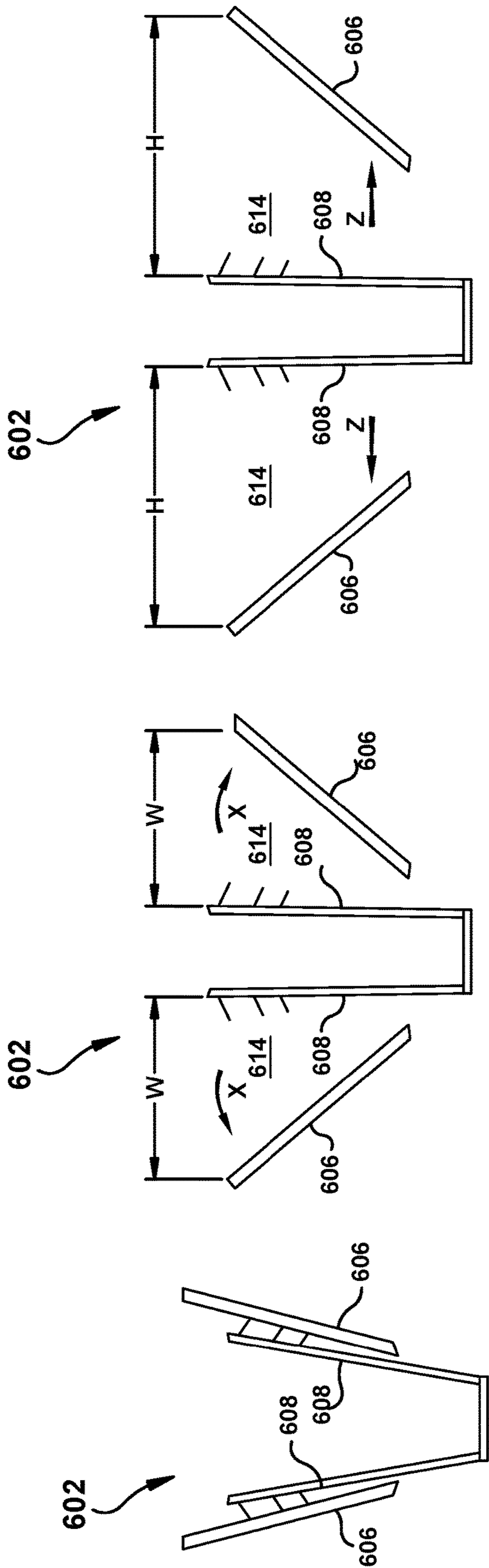


Figure 32A

Figure 32B

Figure 32C

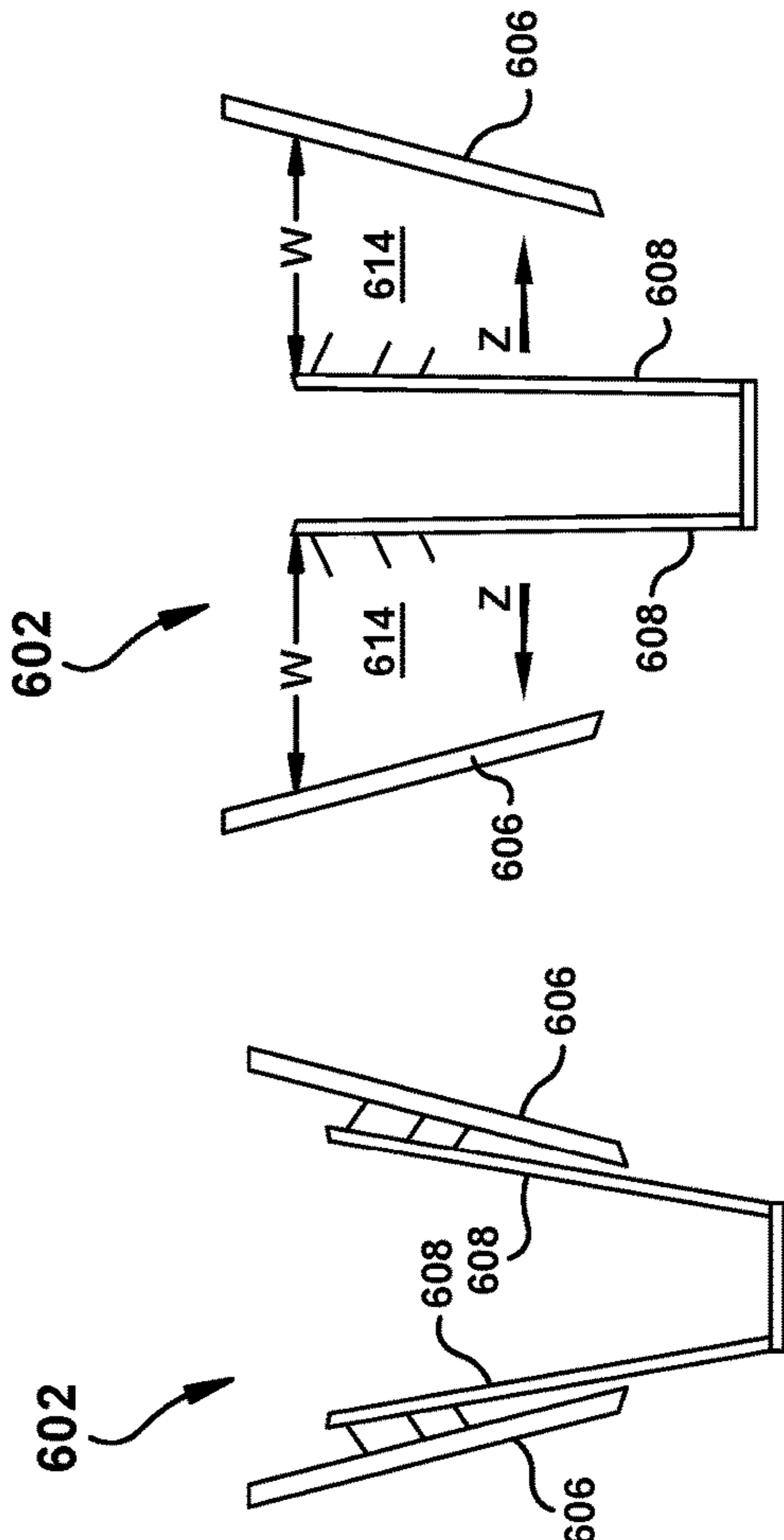


Figure 33A

Figure 33B

Figure 33C

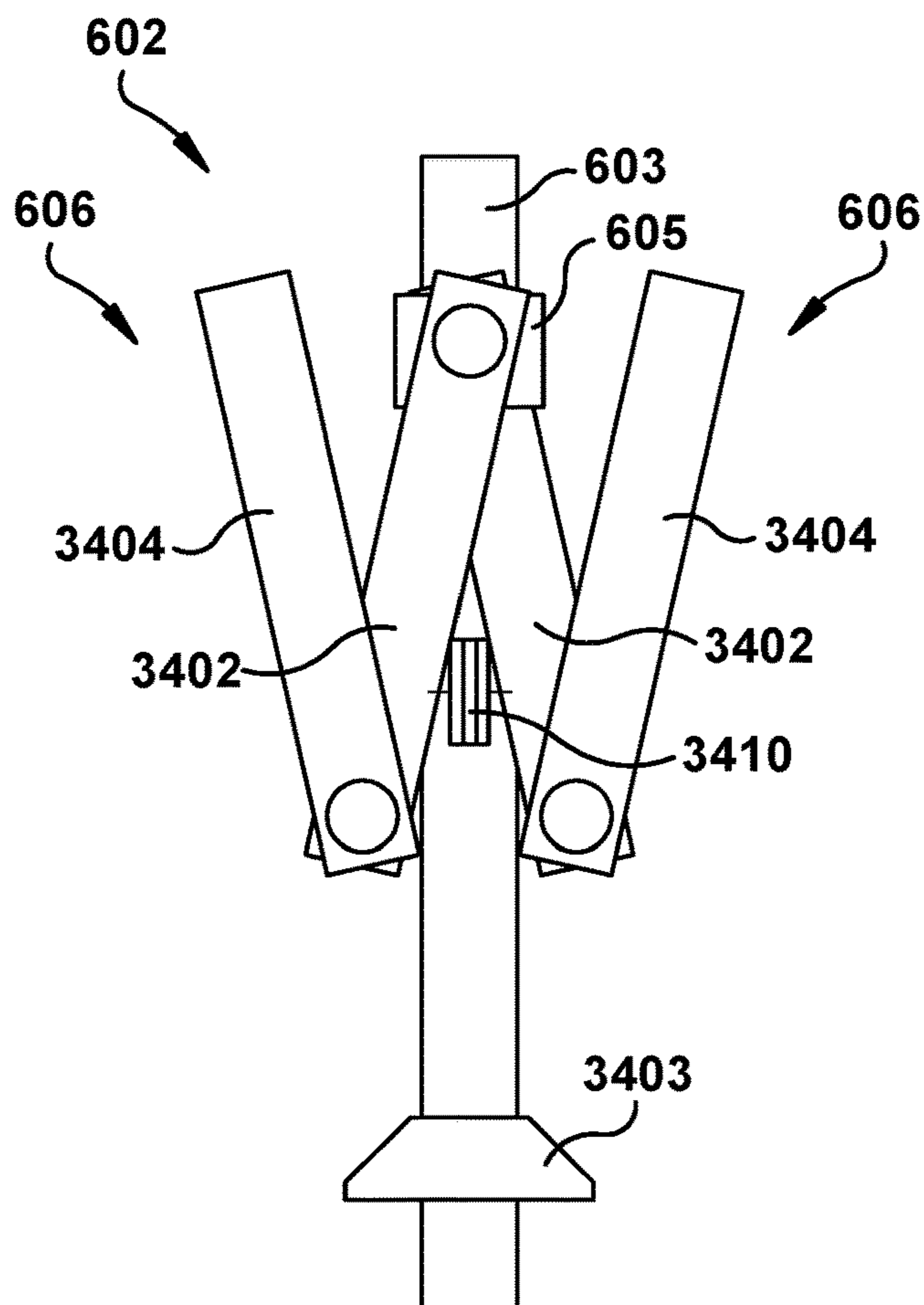


Figure 34A

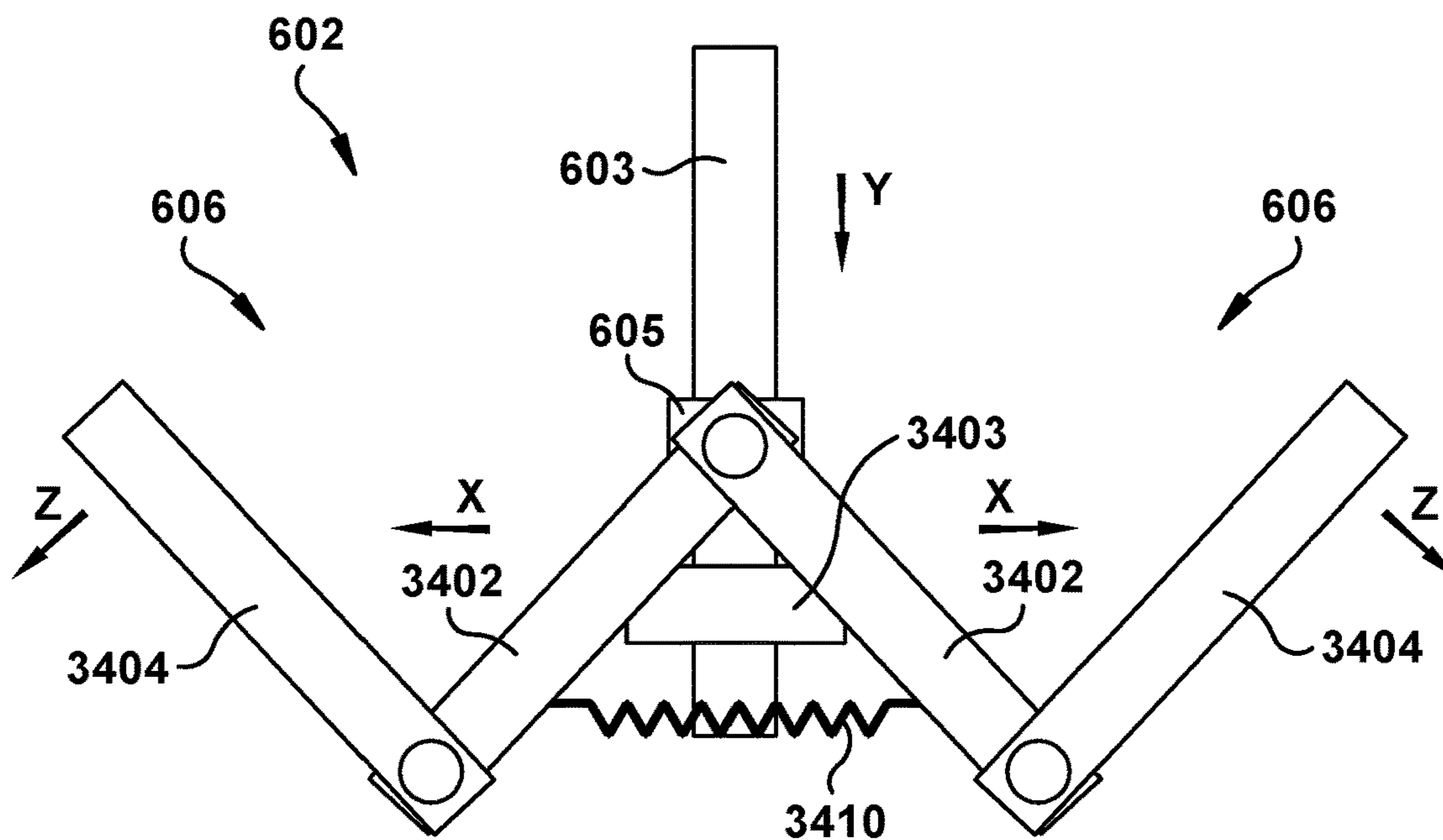


Figure 34B

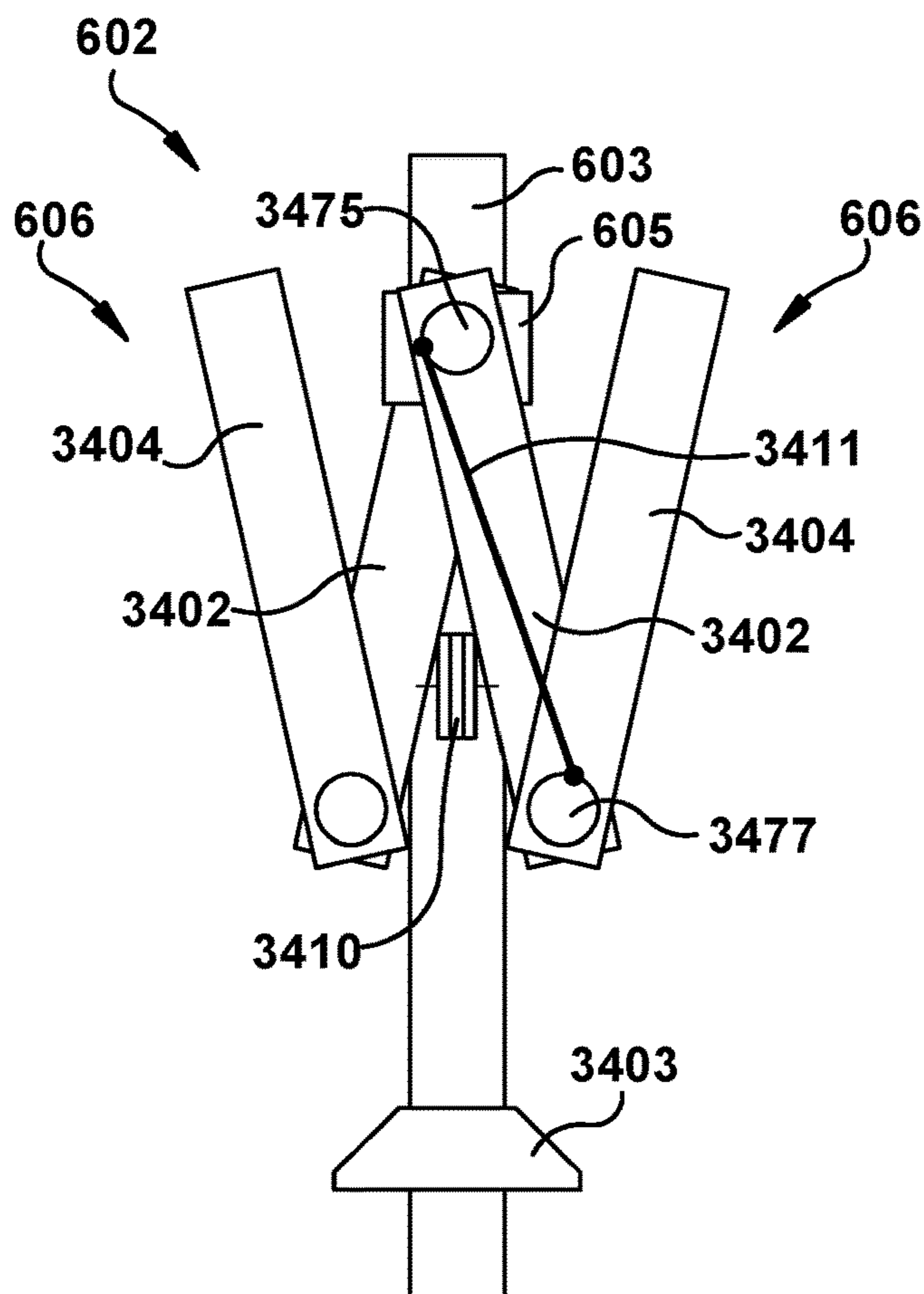


Figure 34C

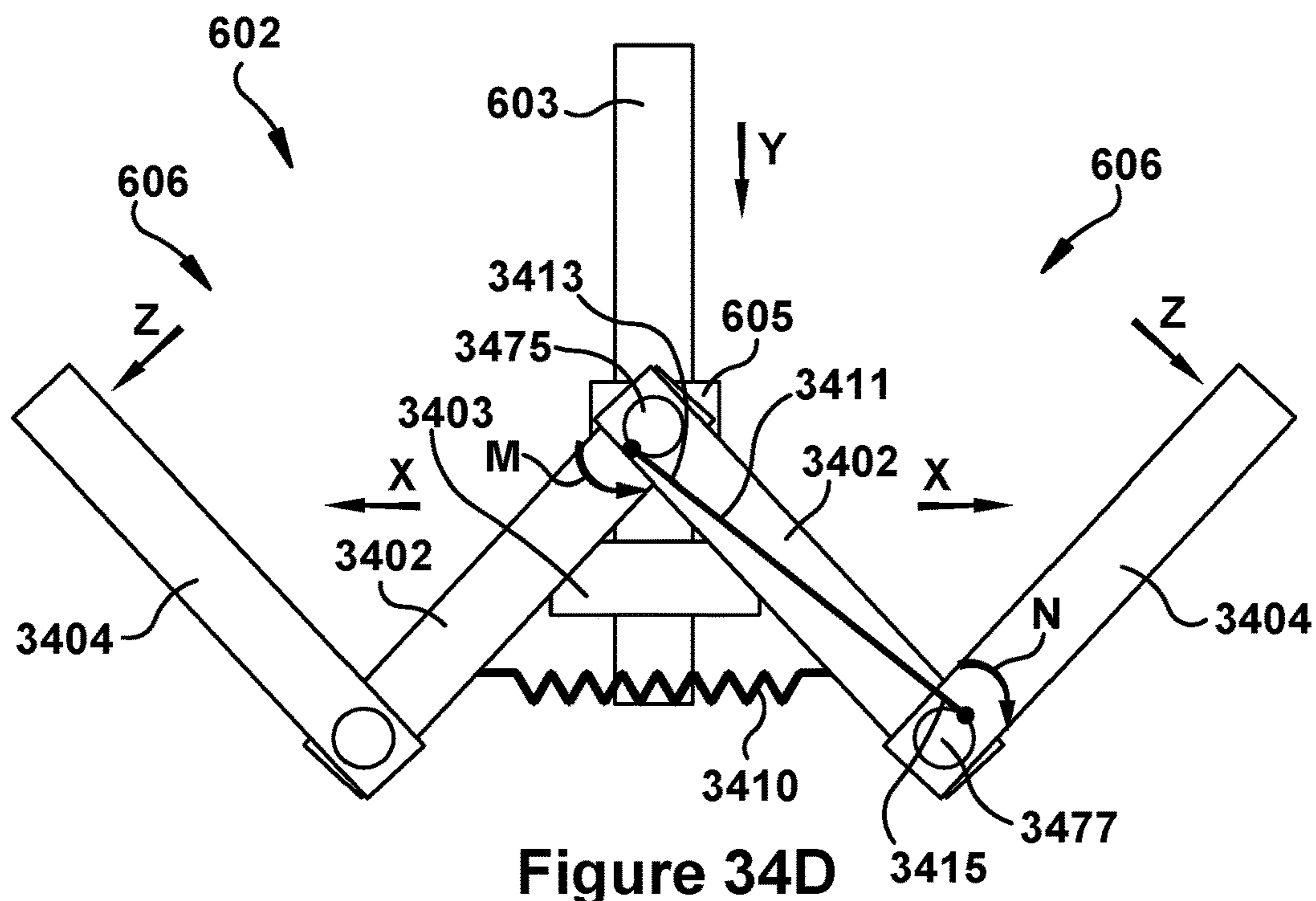


Figure 34D

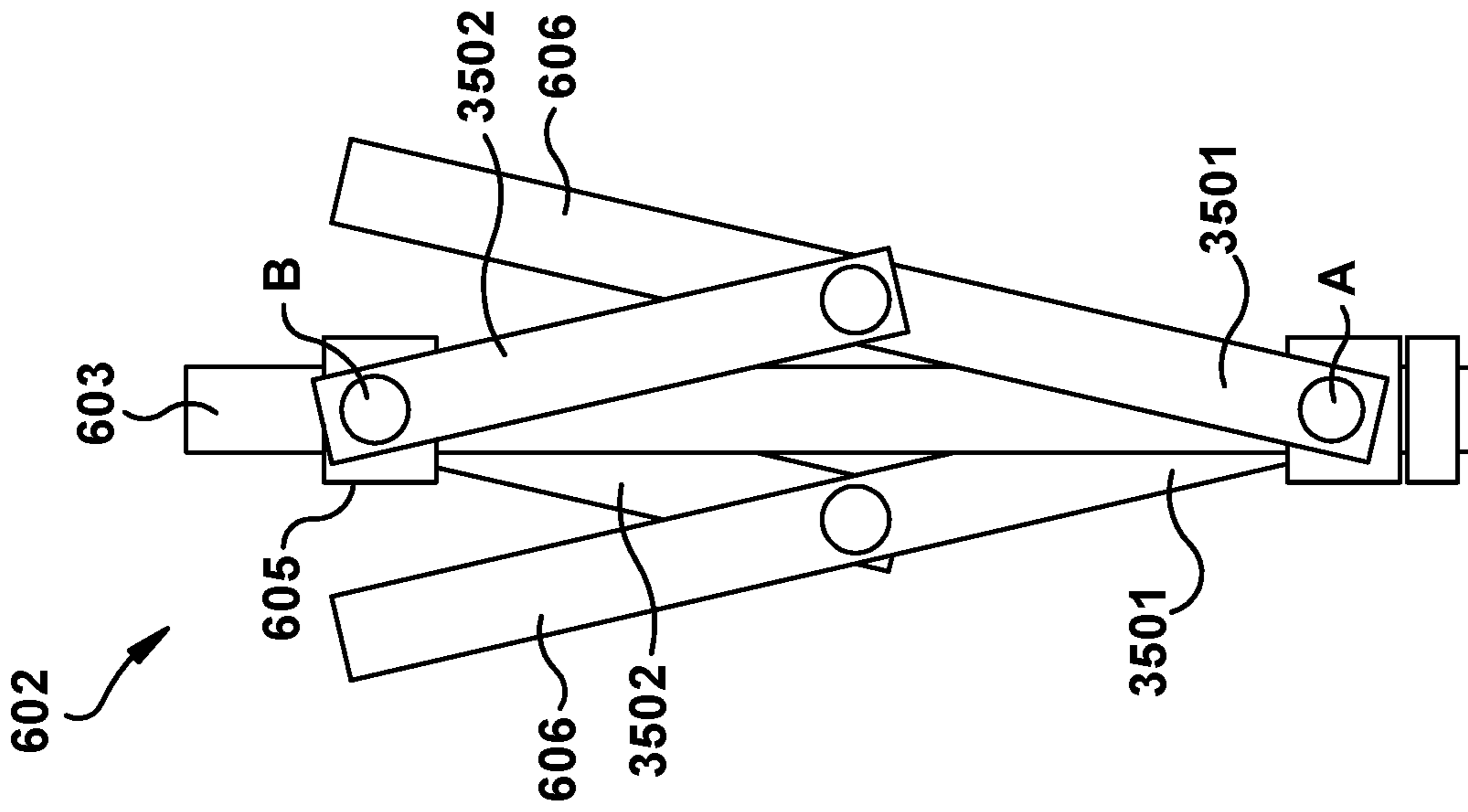


Figure 35A

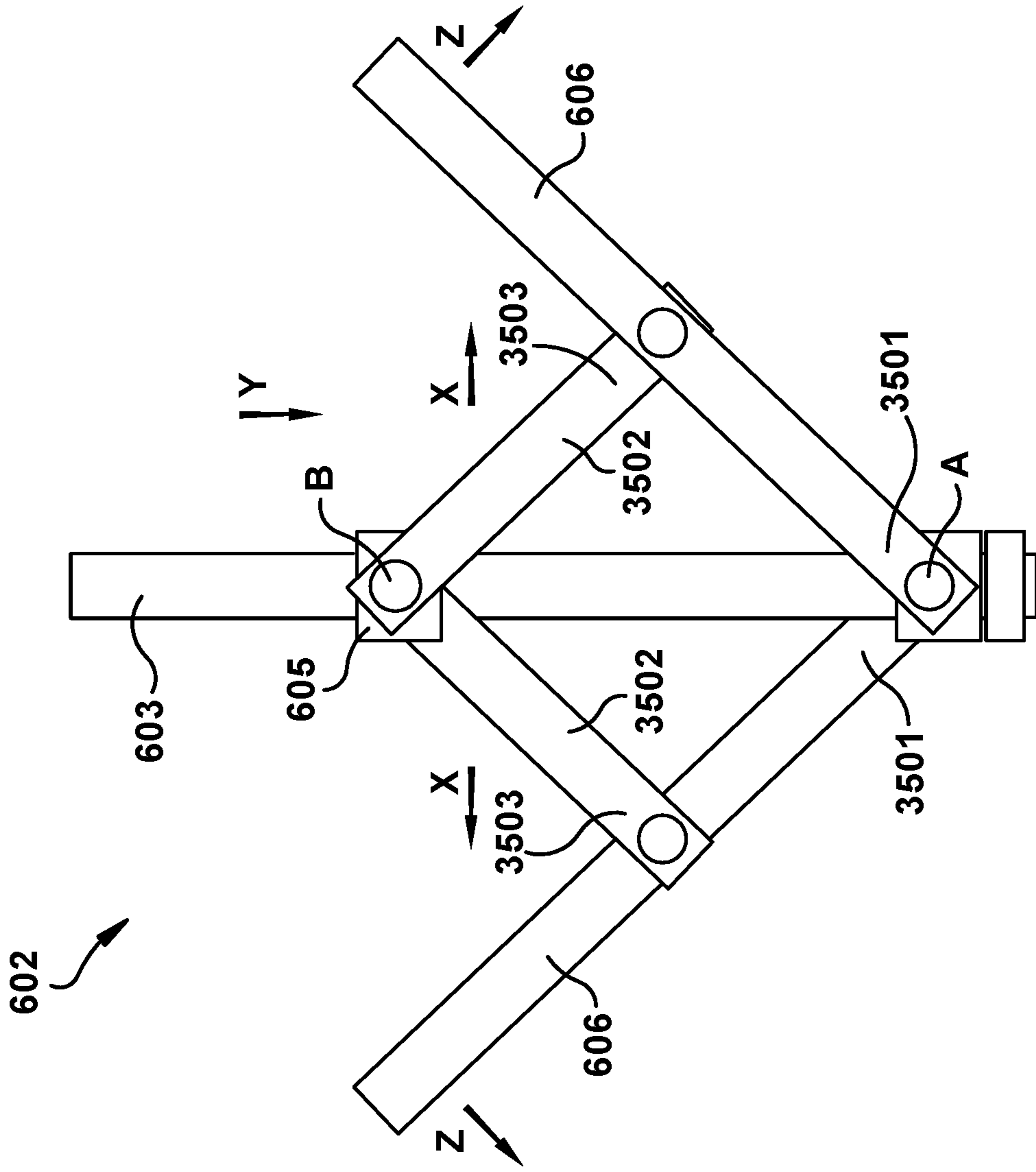


Figure 35B

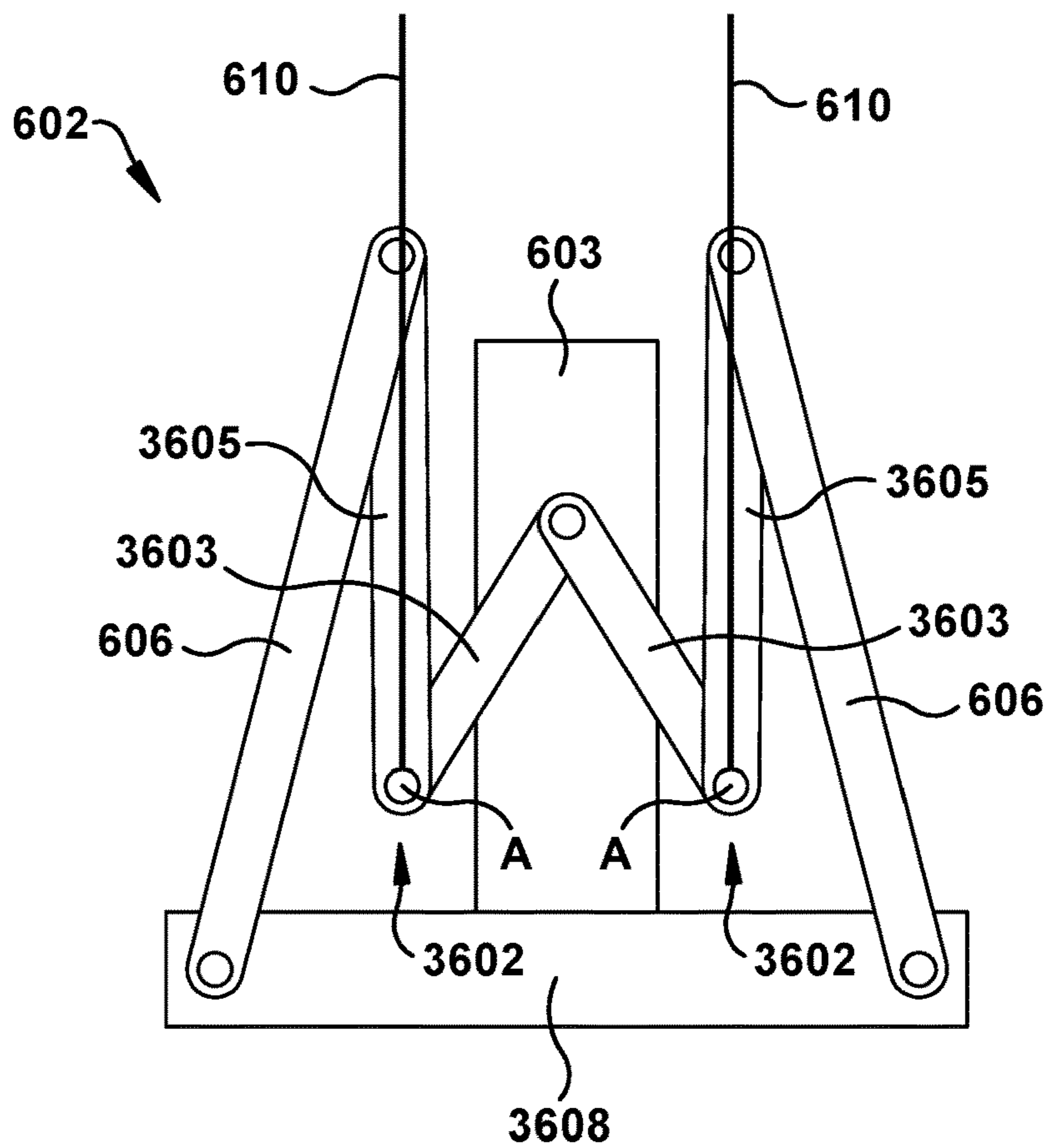


Figure 36A

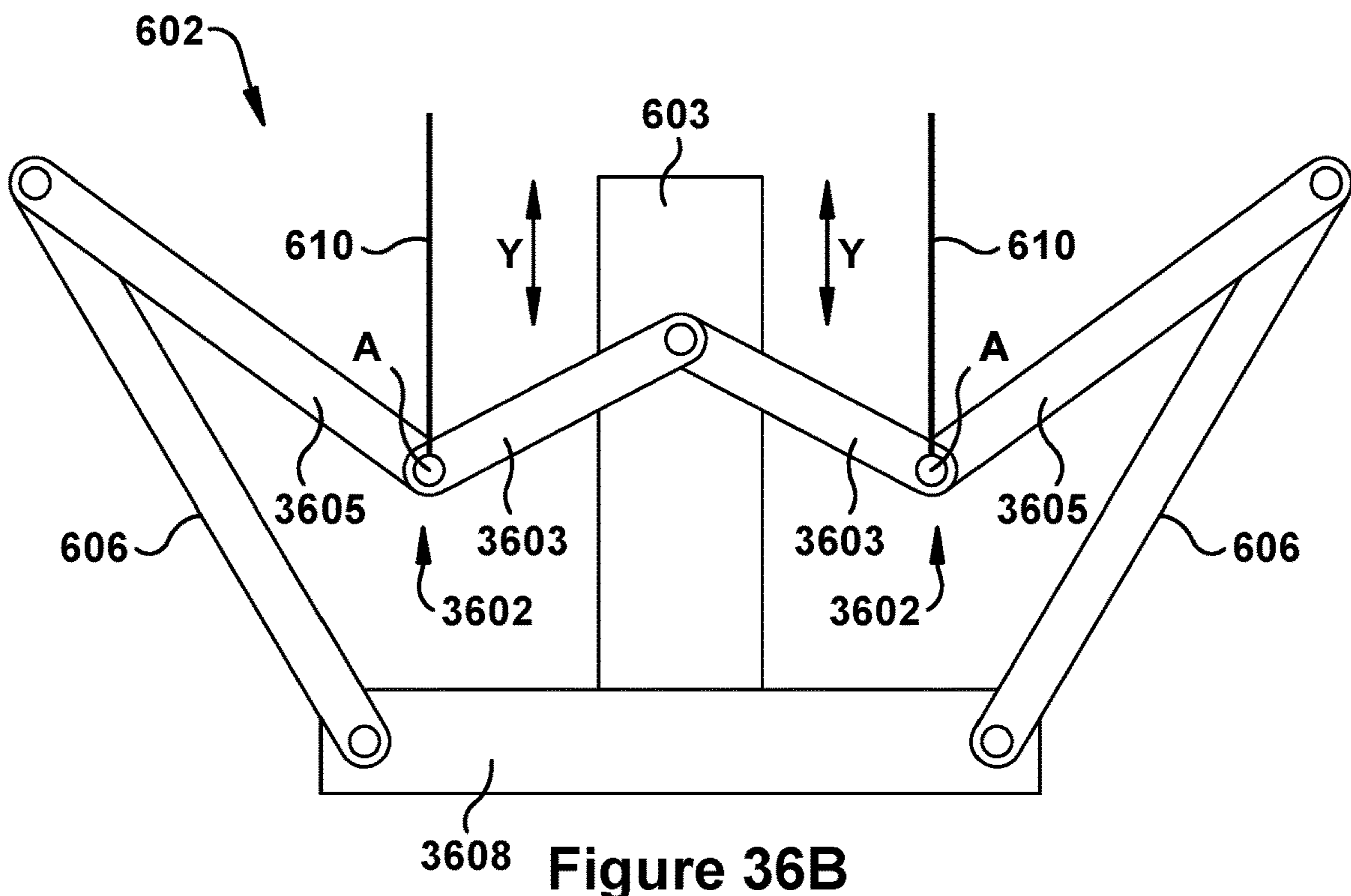


Figure 36B

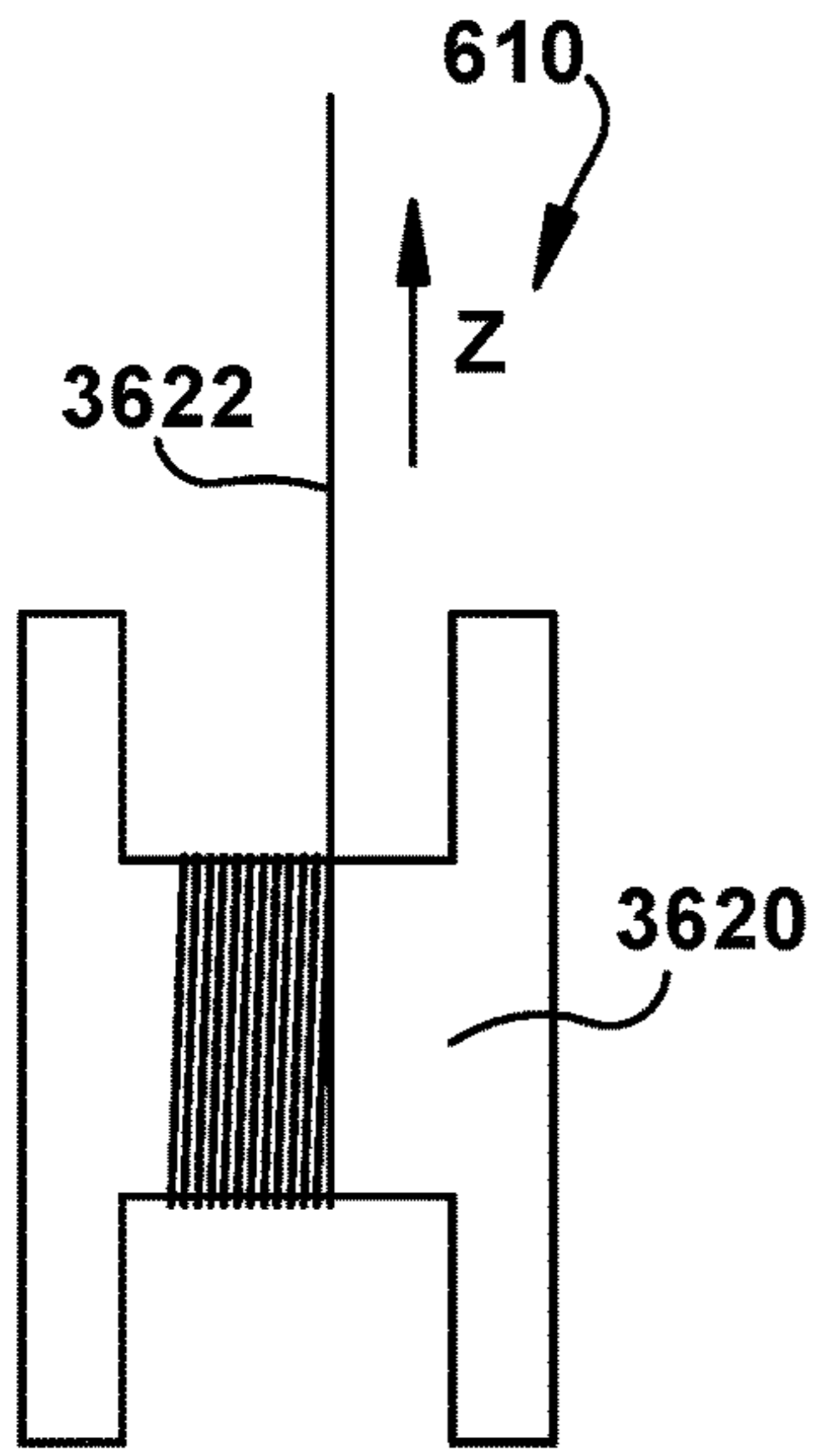


Figure 36C

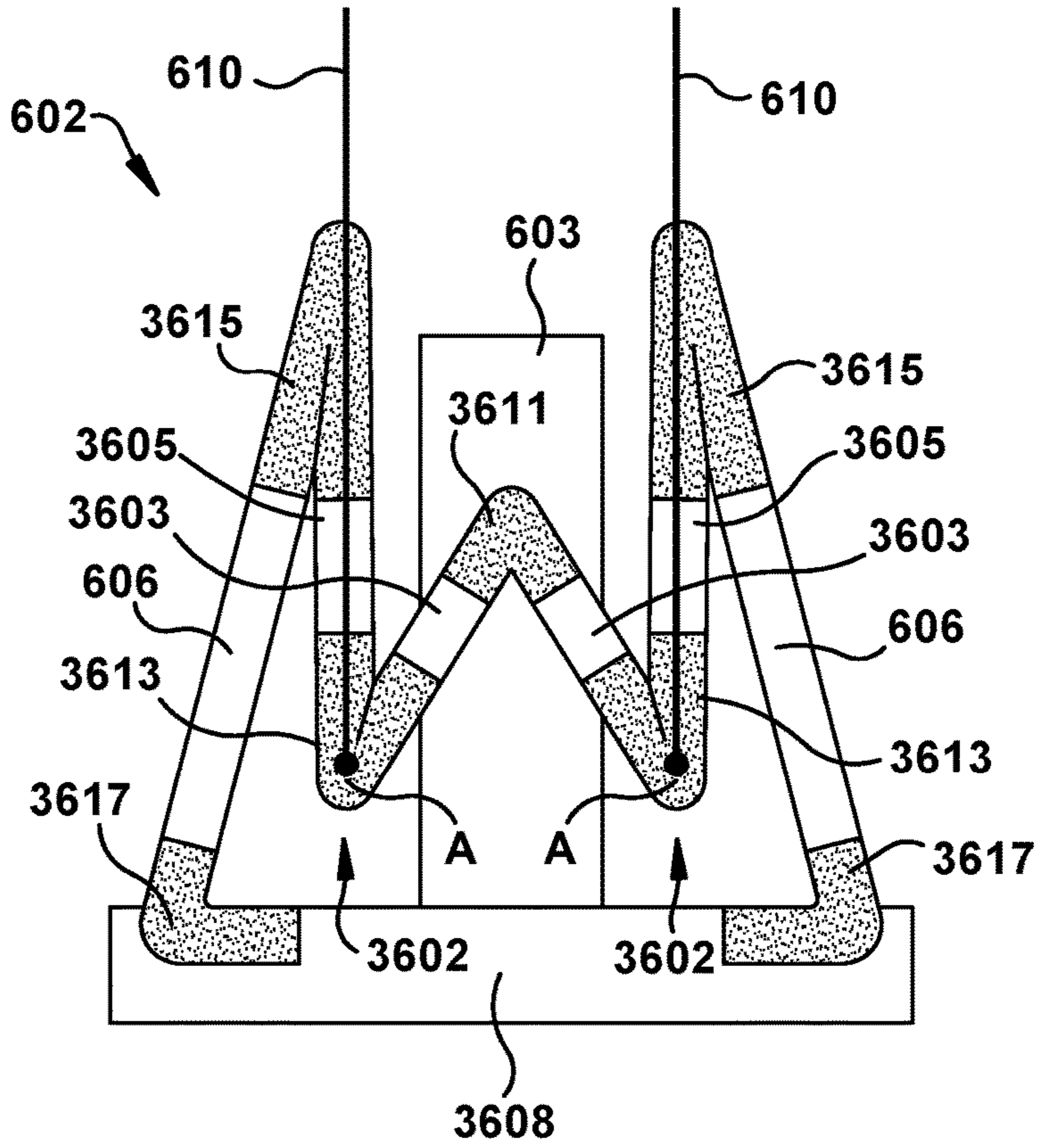


Figure 36D

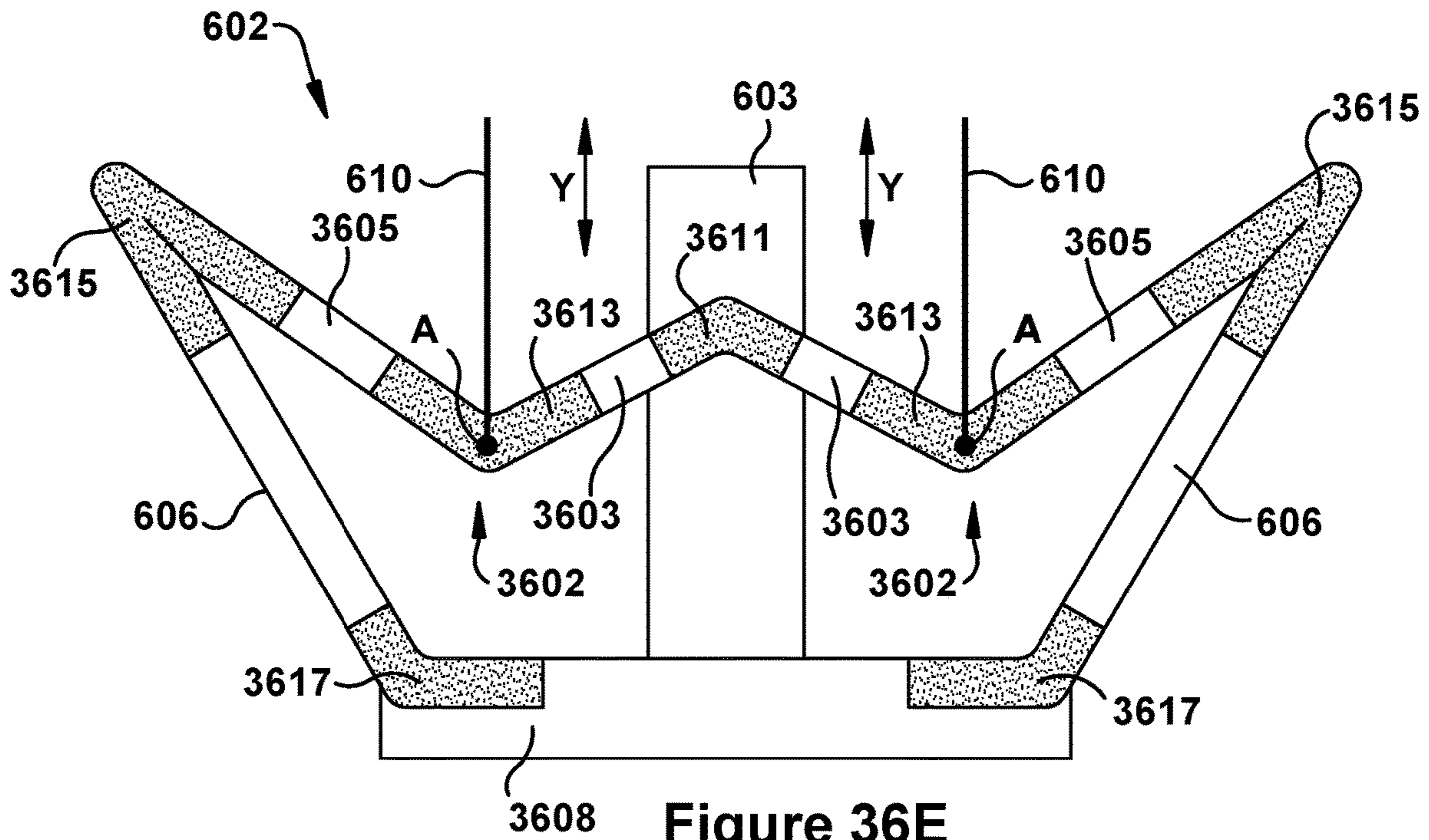


Figure 36E

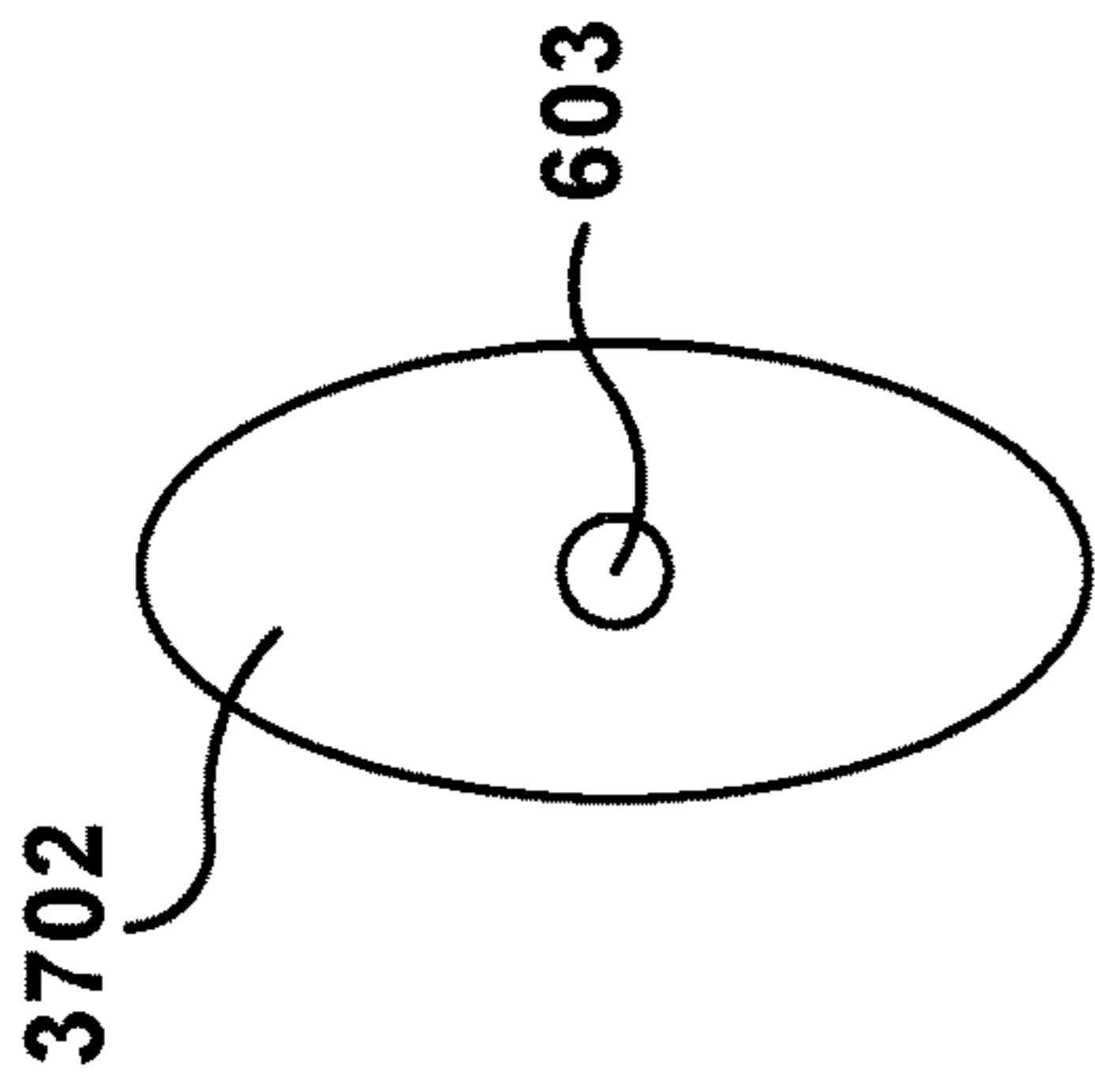


Figure 37B

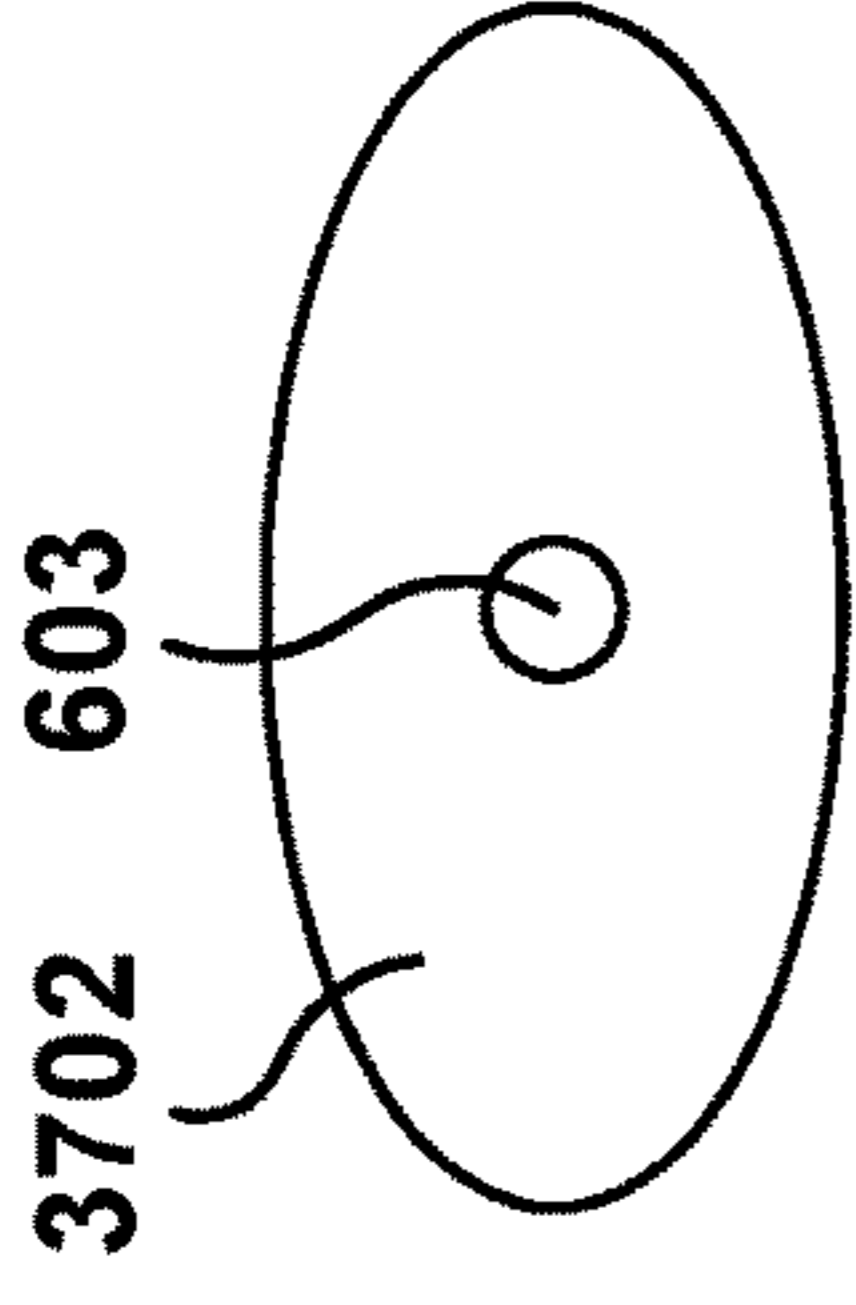


Figure 37D

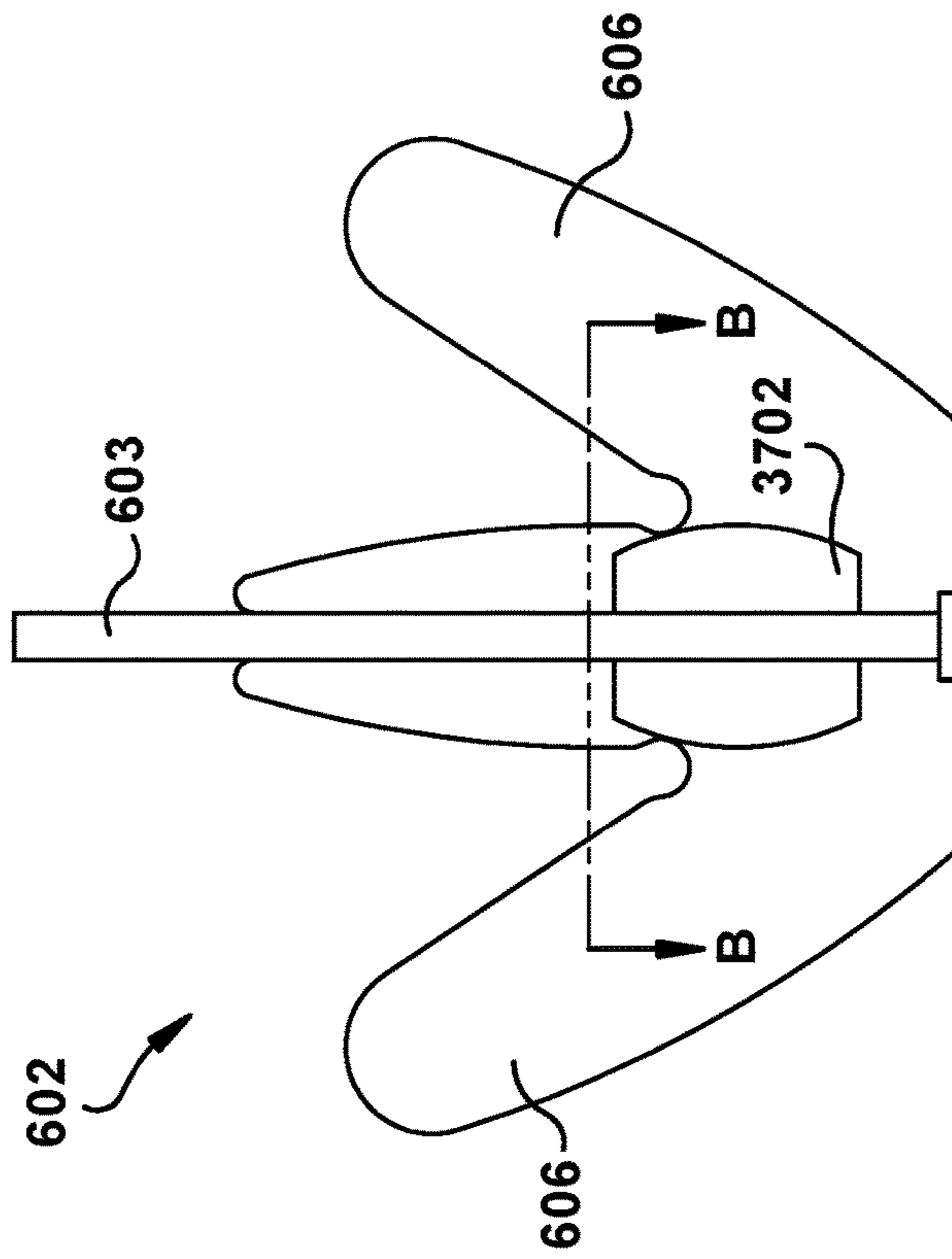


Figure 37A

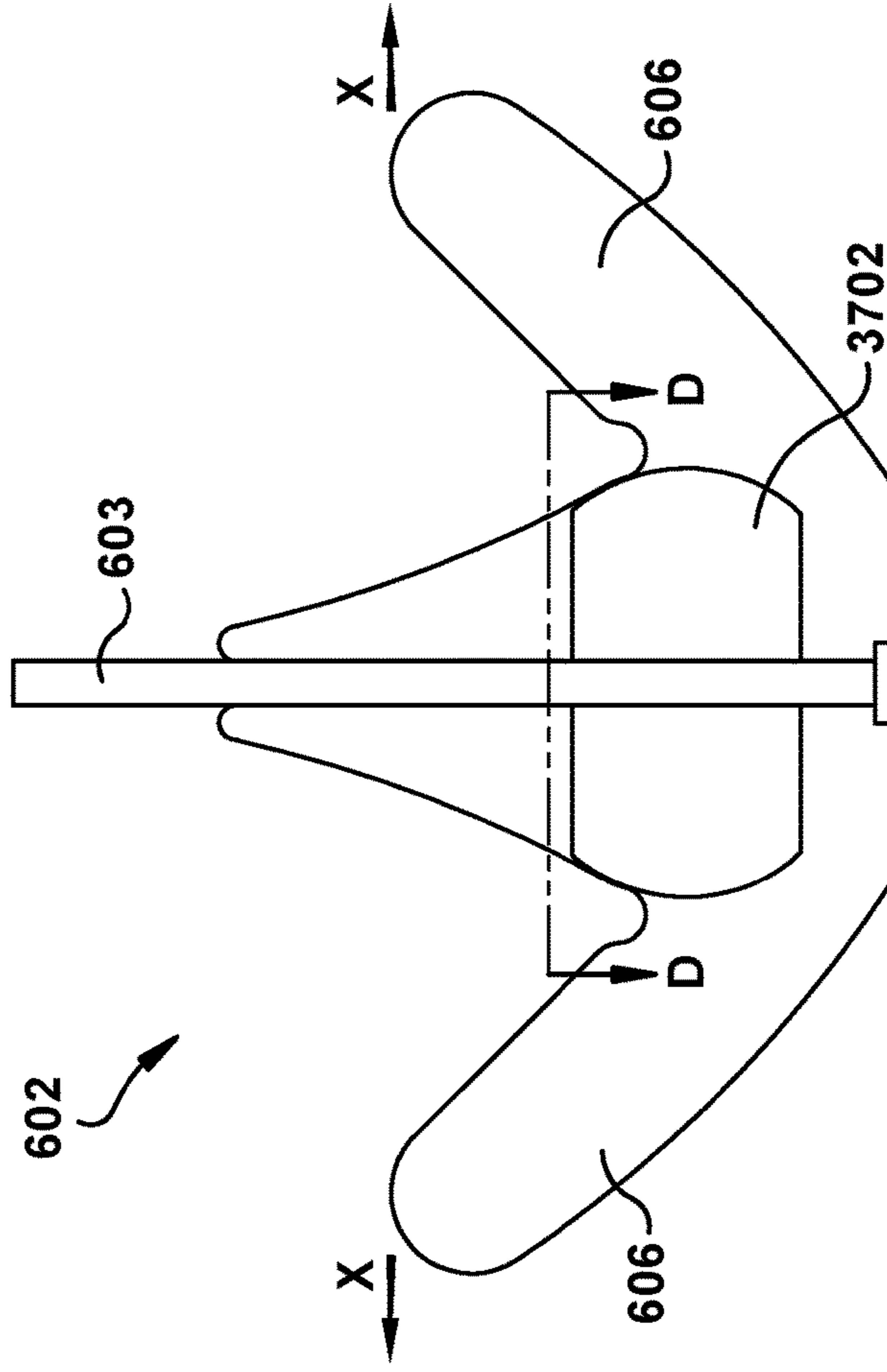


Figure 37C

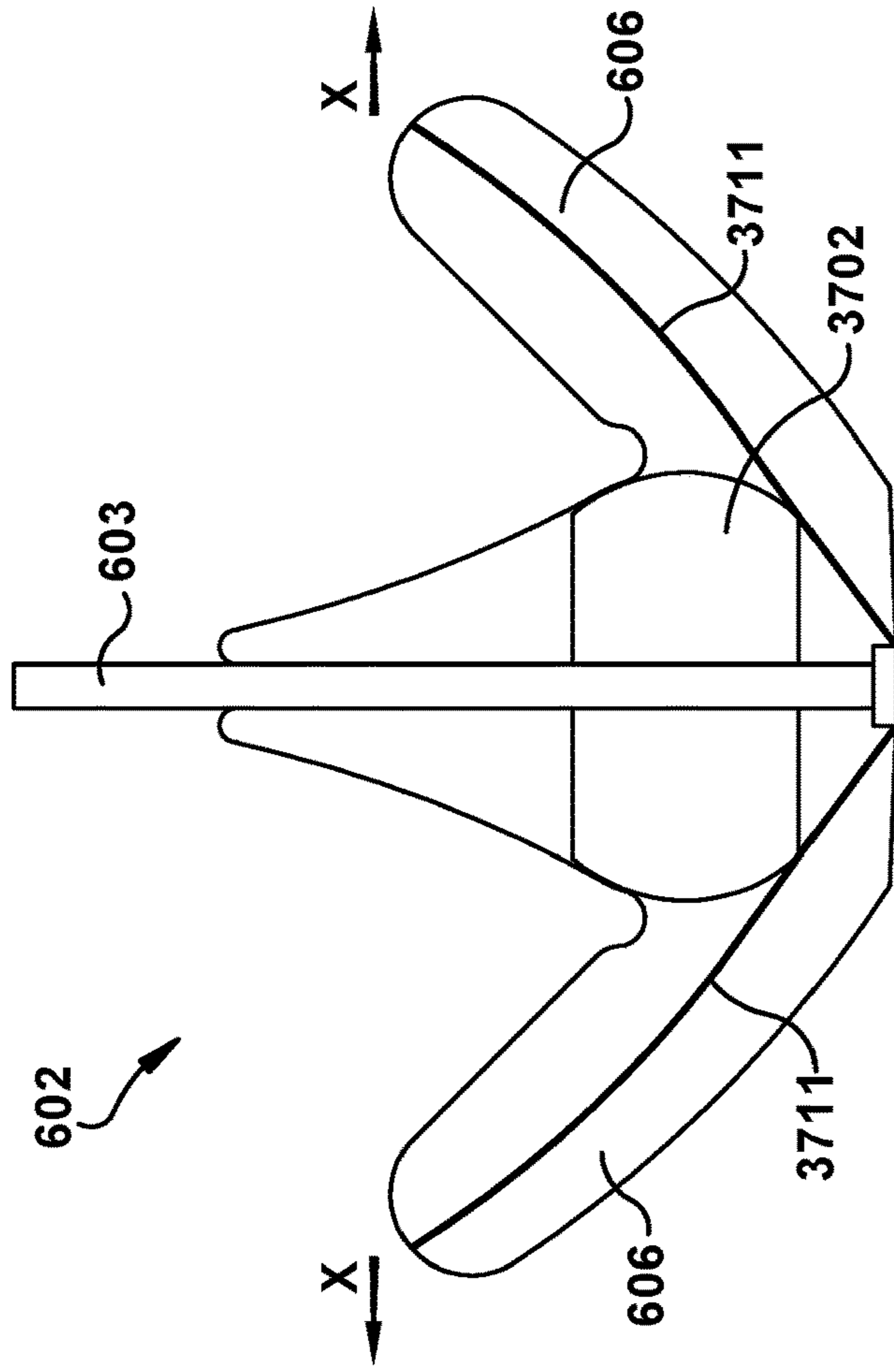


Figure 37E

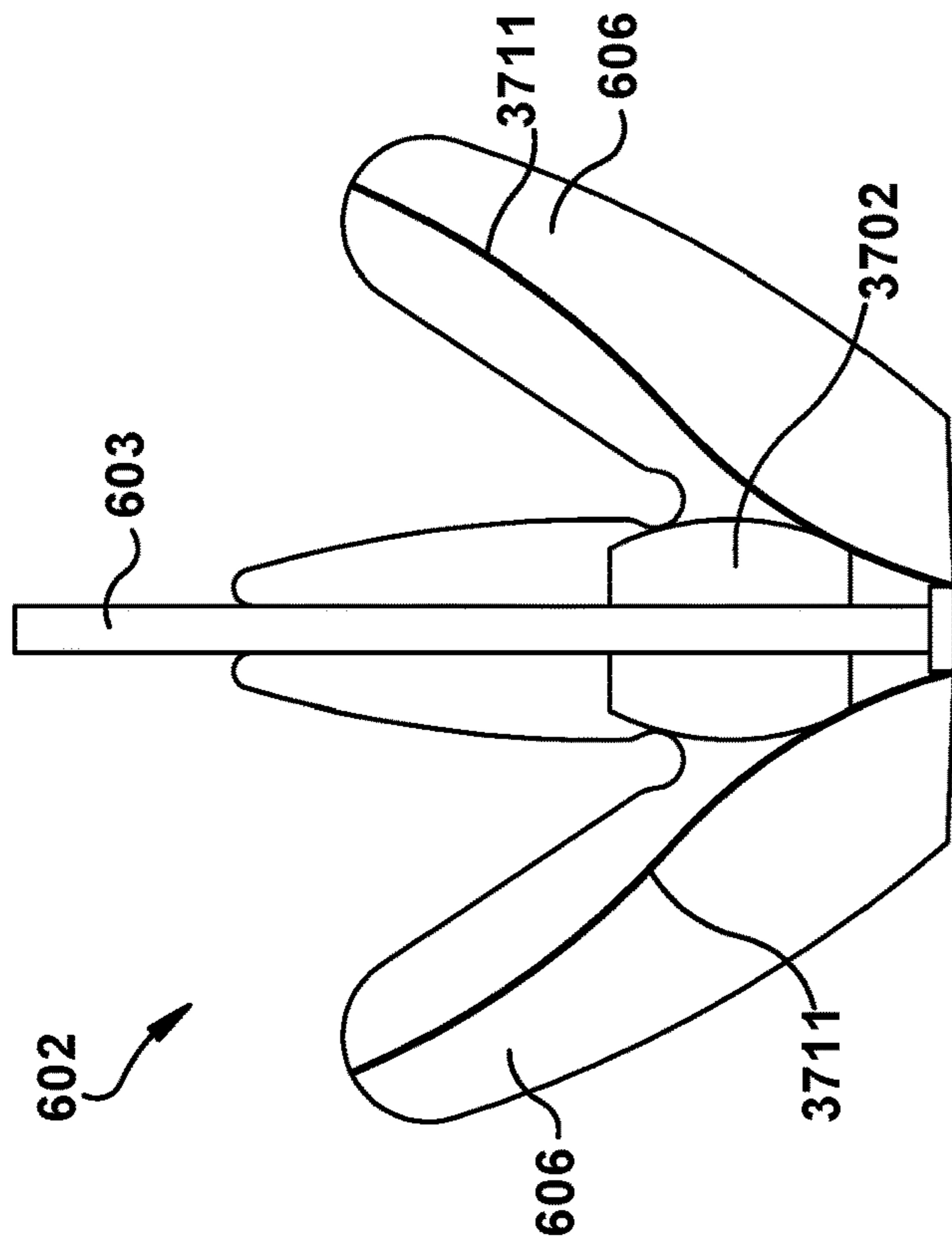


Figure 37F

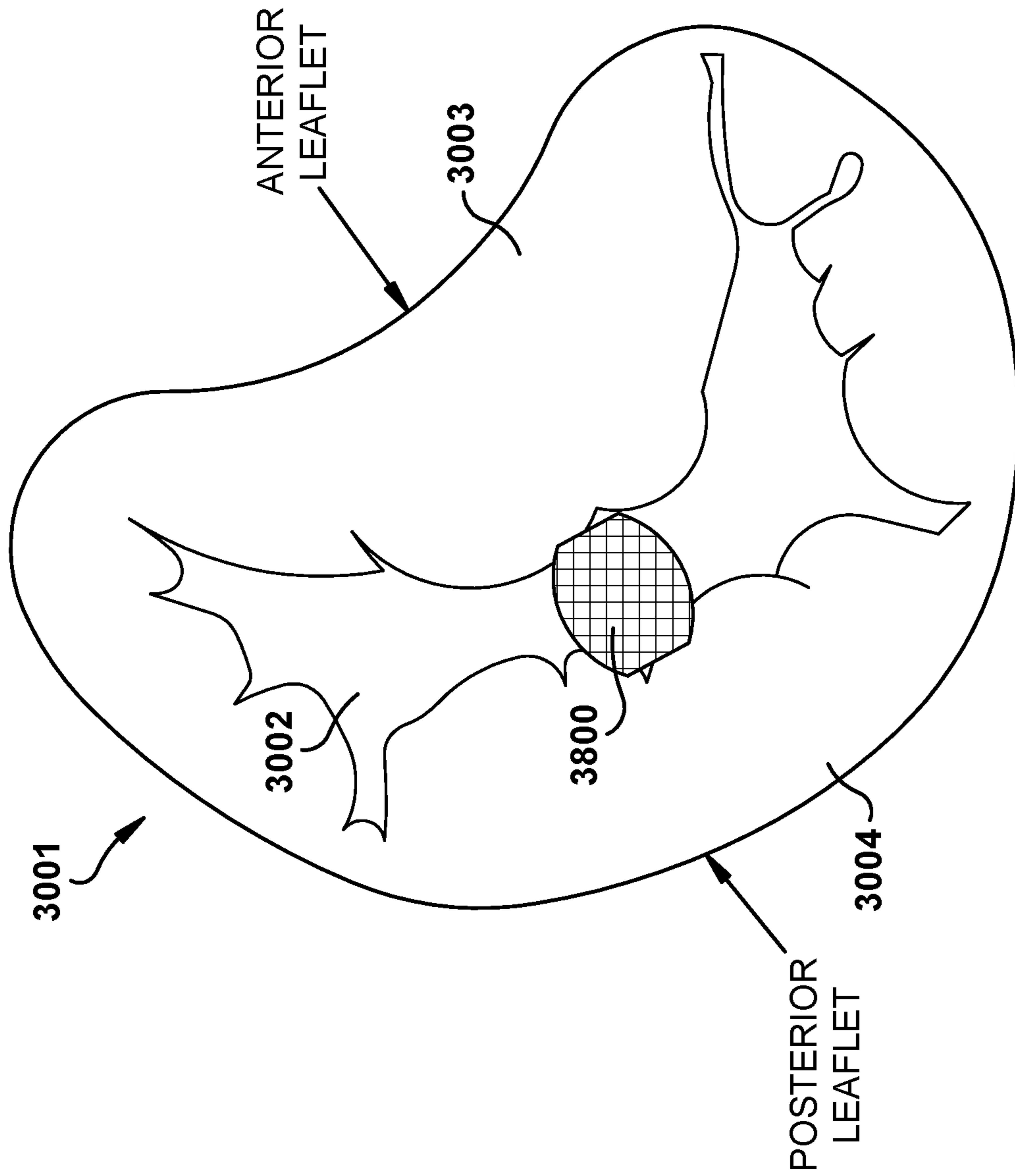


Figure 38

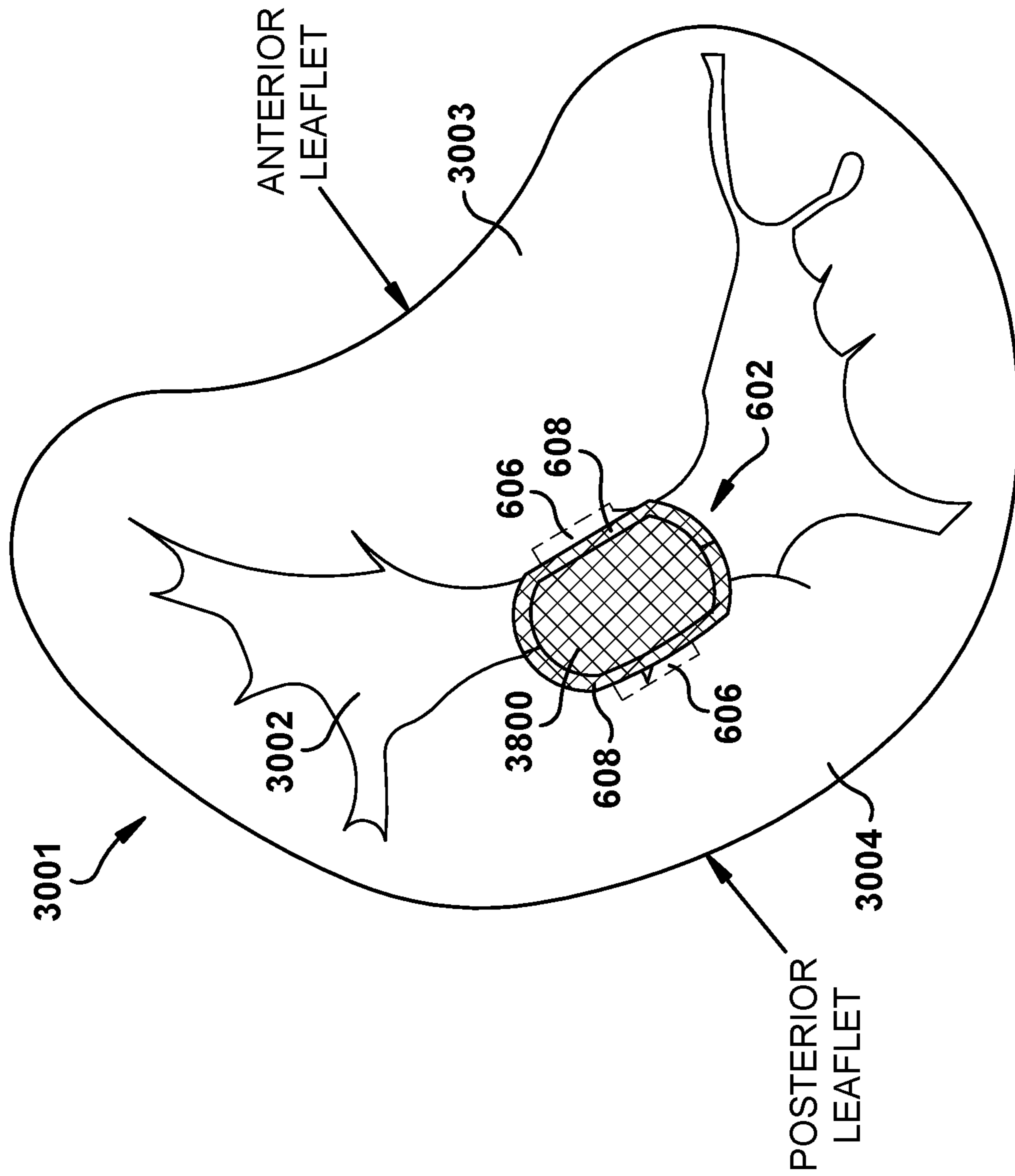


Figure 39

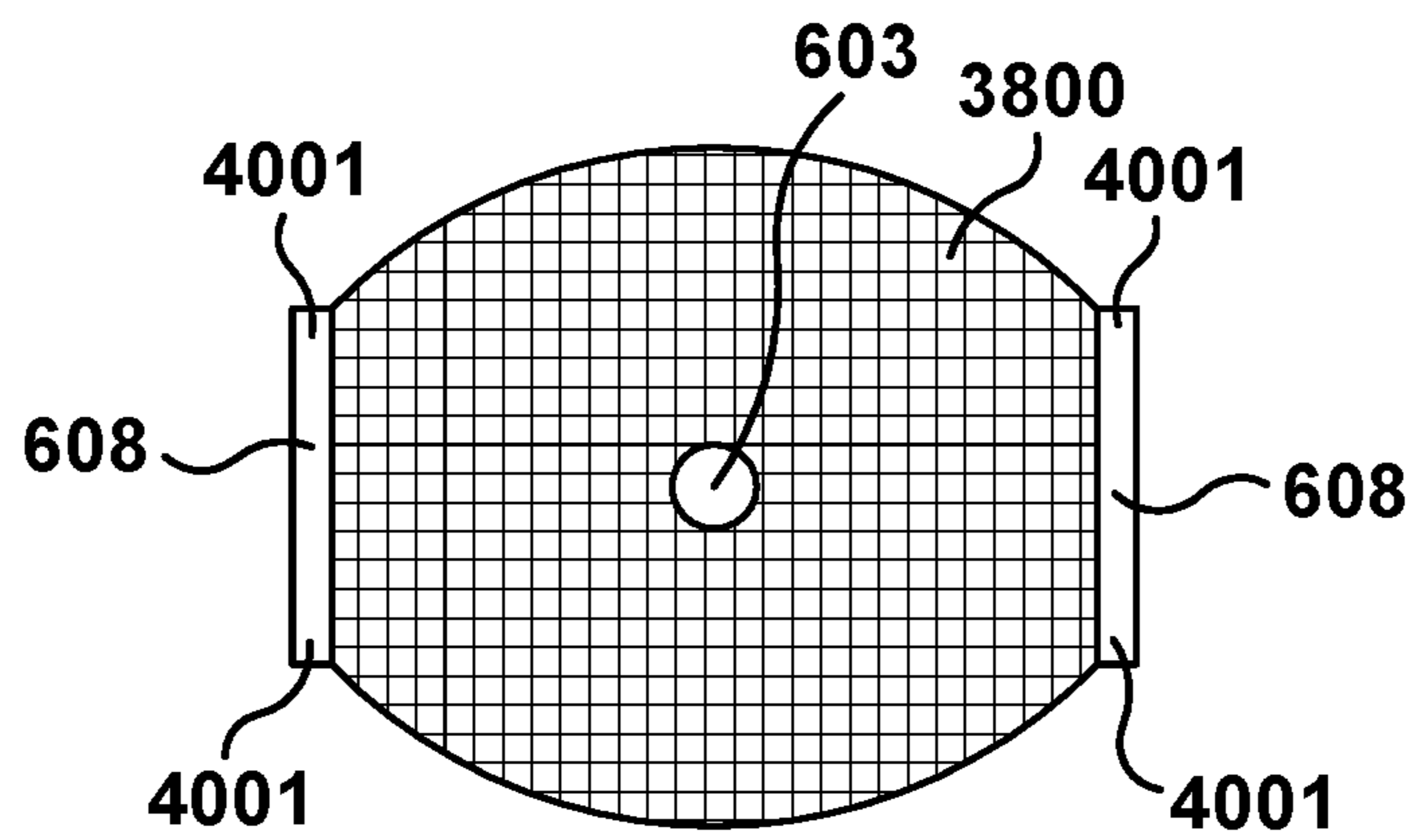


Figure 40B

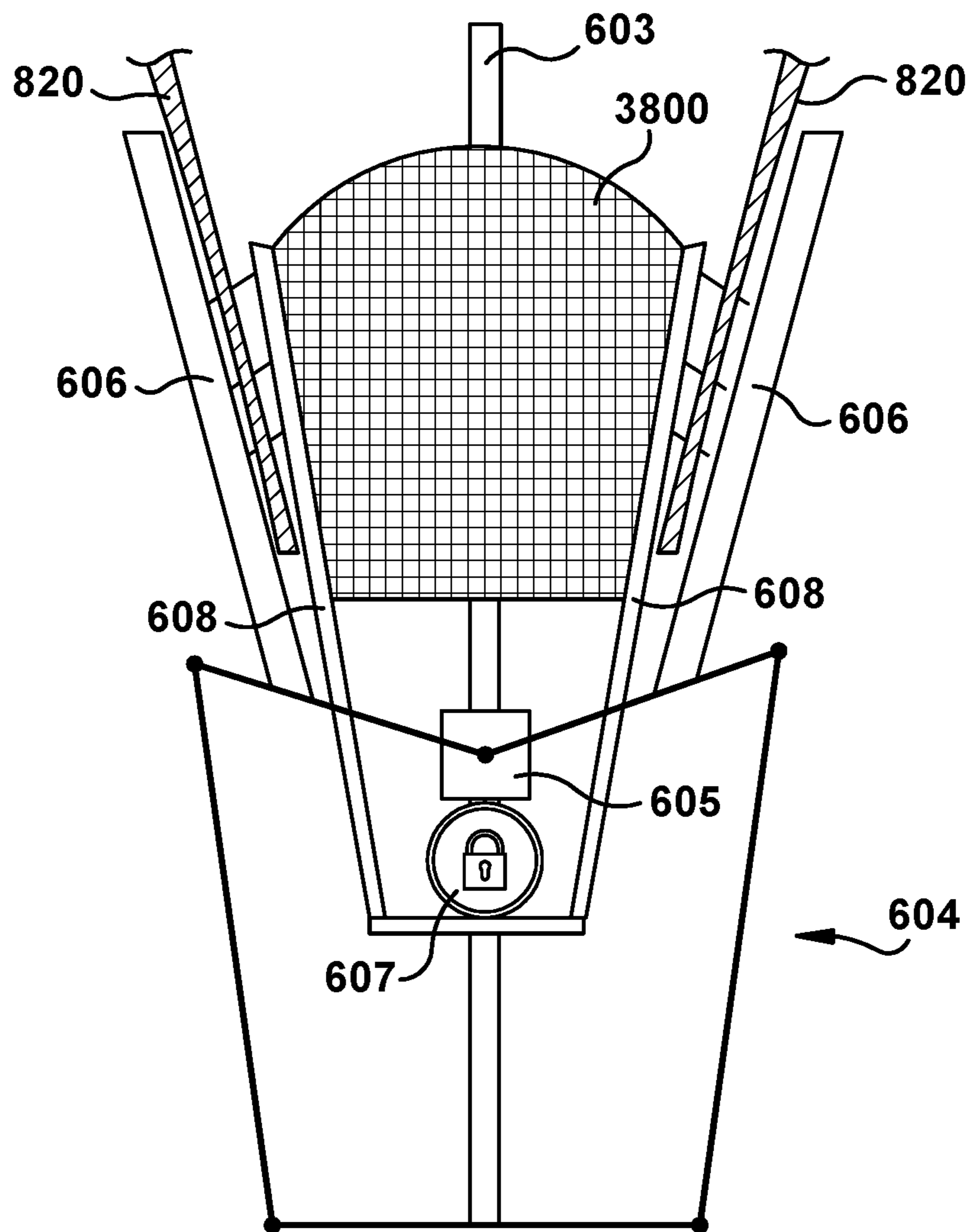


Figure 40A

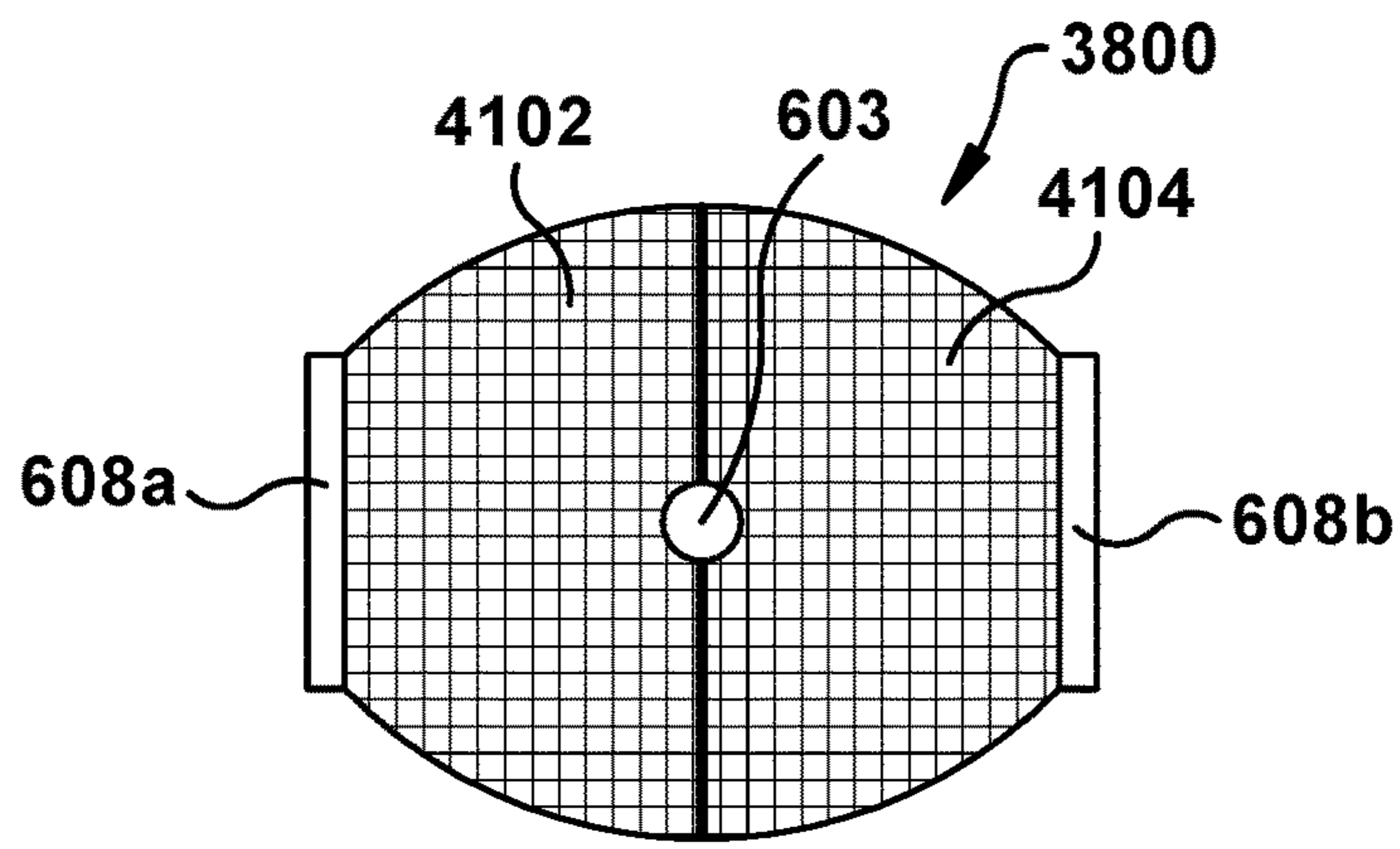


Figure 41B

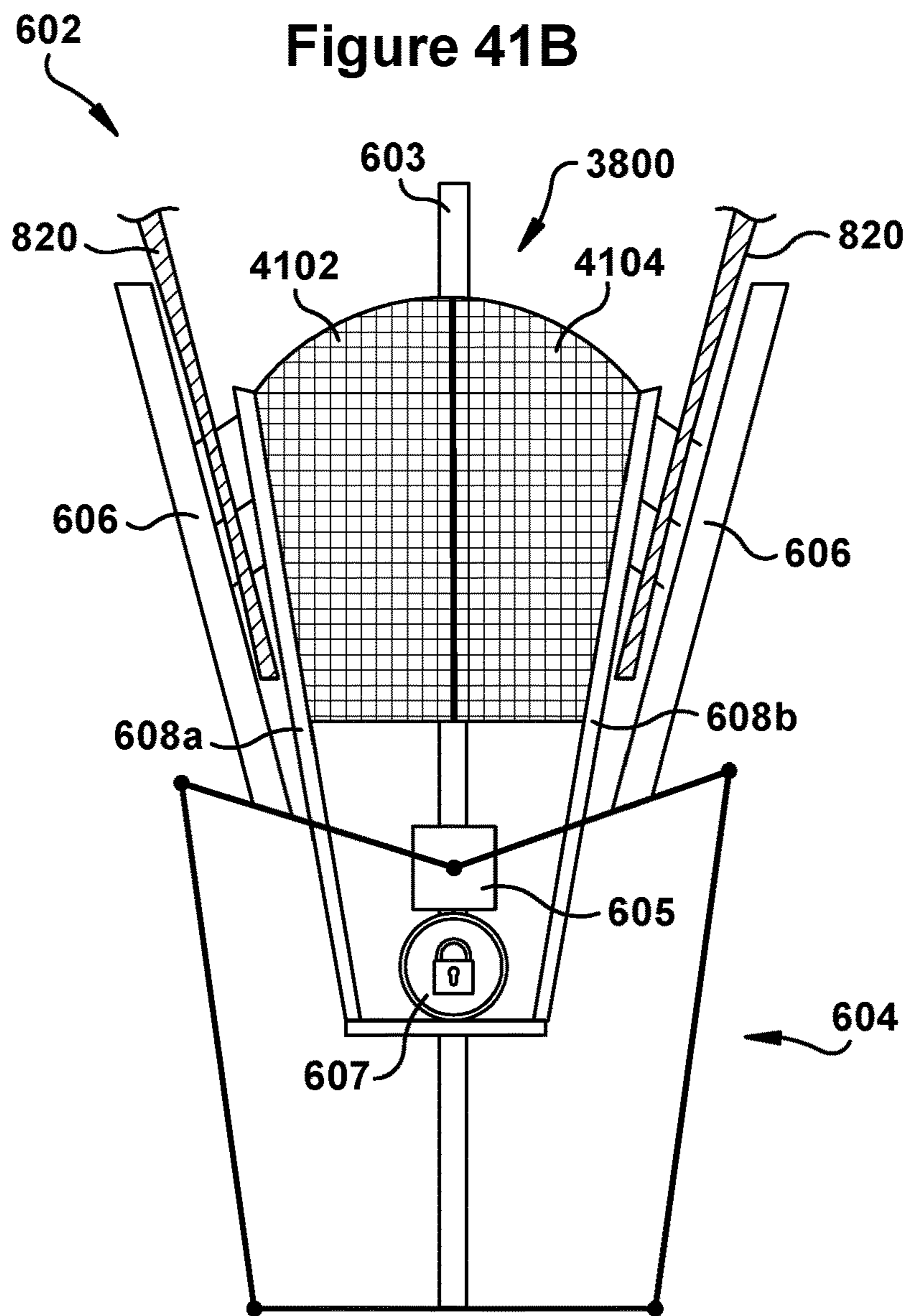


Figure 41A

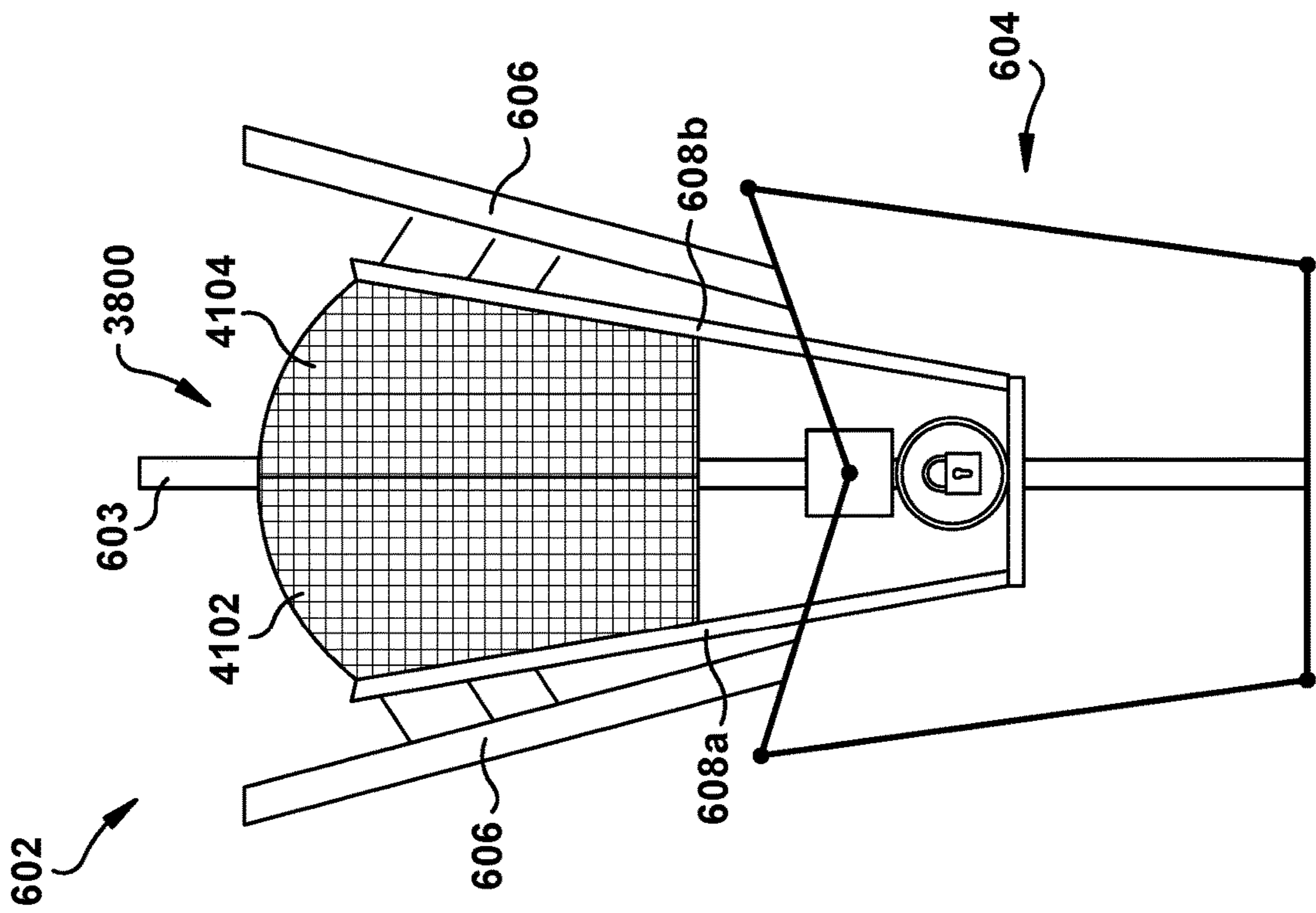


Figure 41C

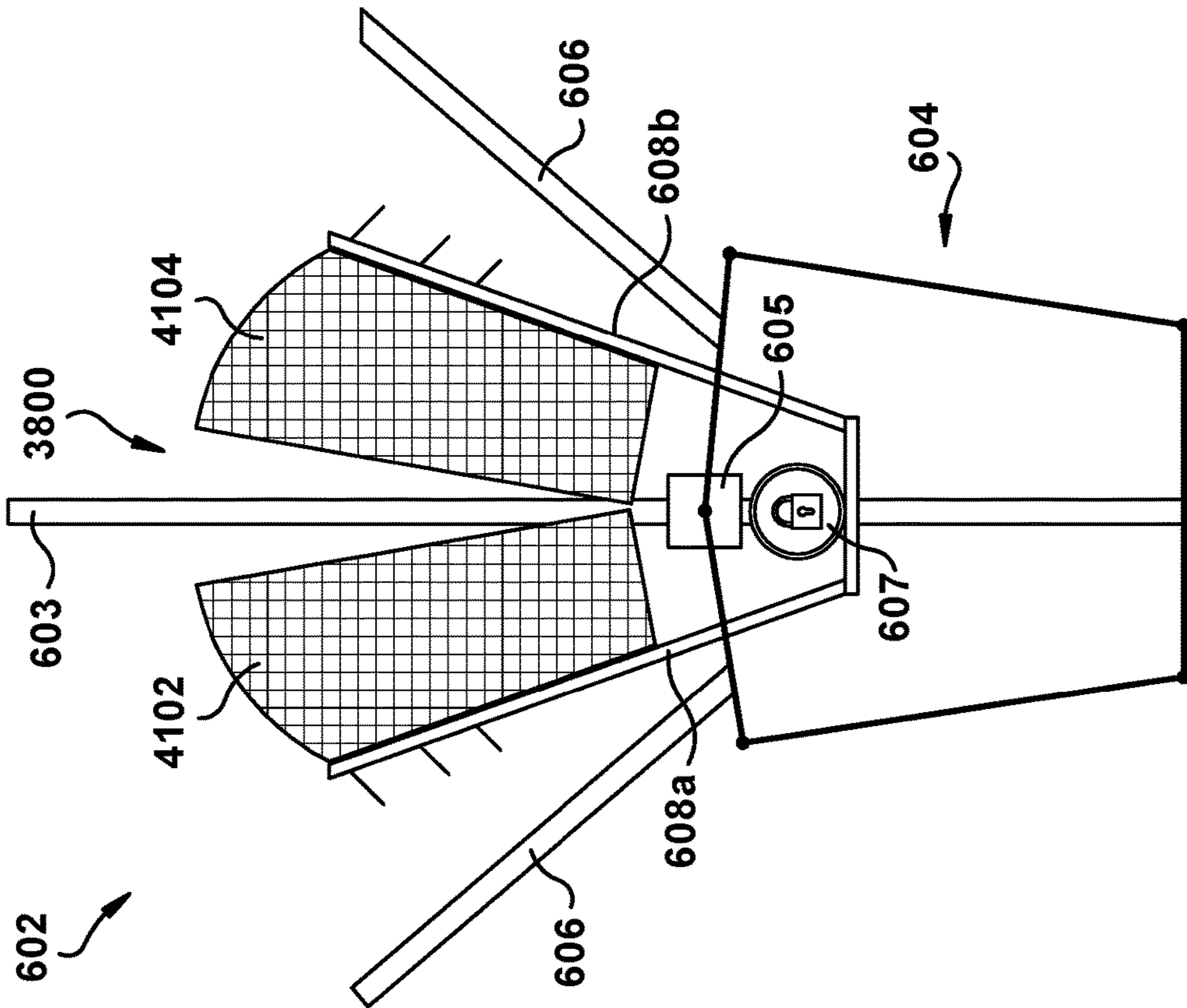


Figure 41D

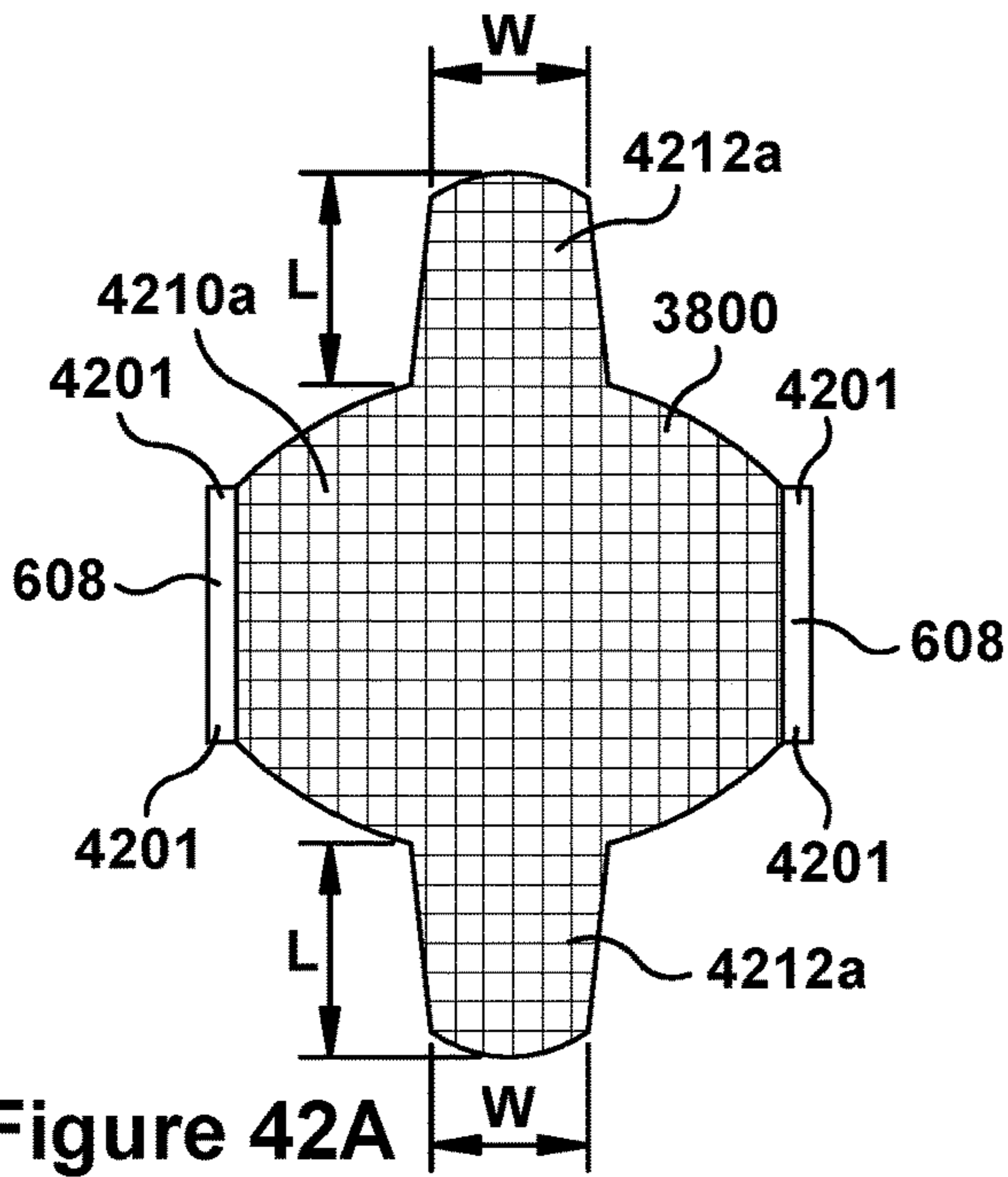


Figure 42A

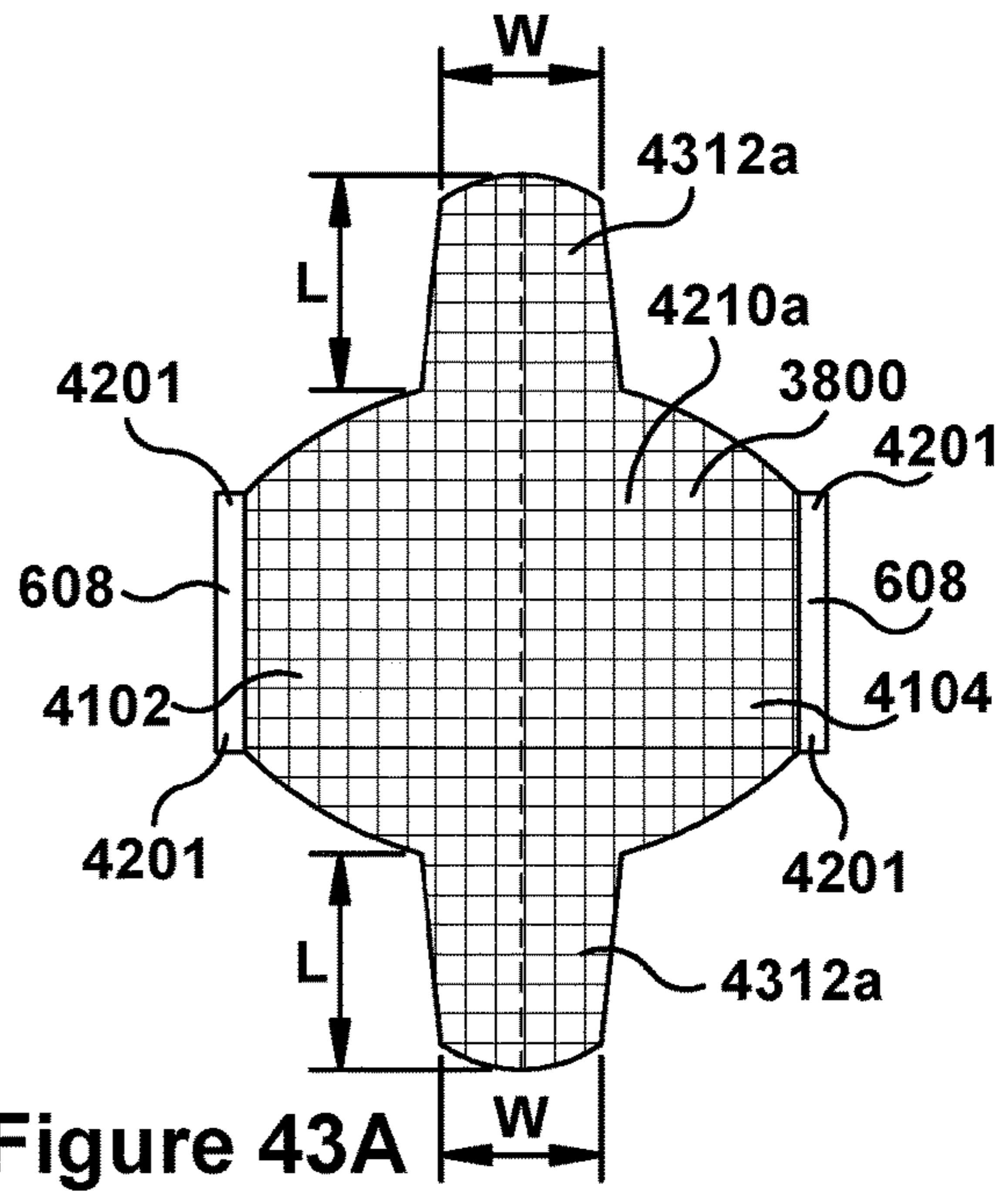


Figure 43A

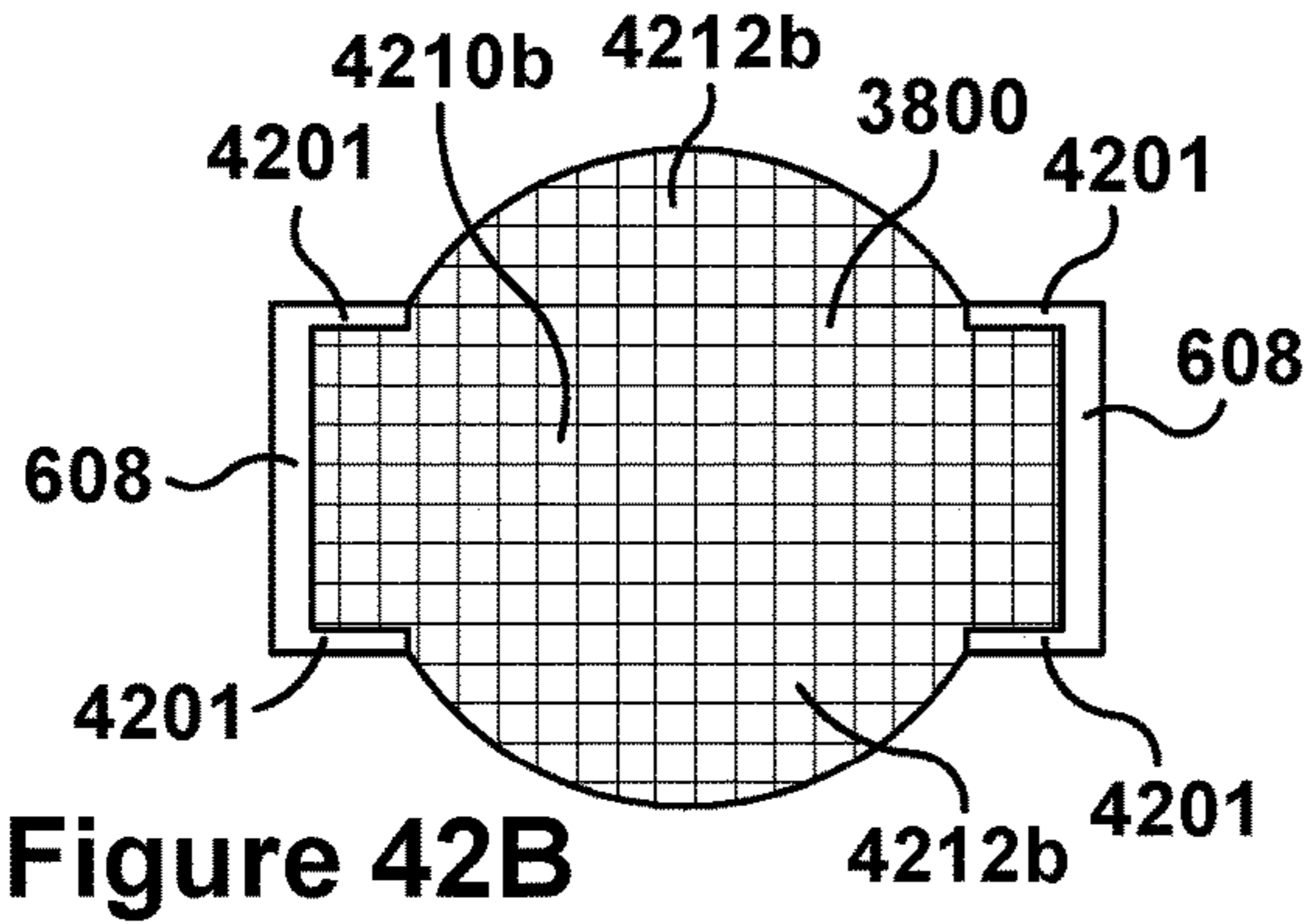


Figure 42B

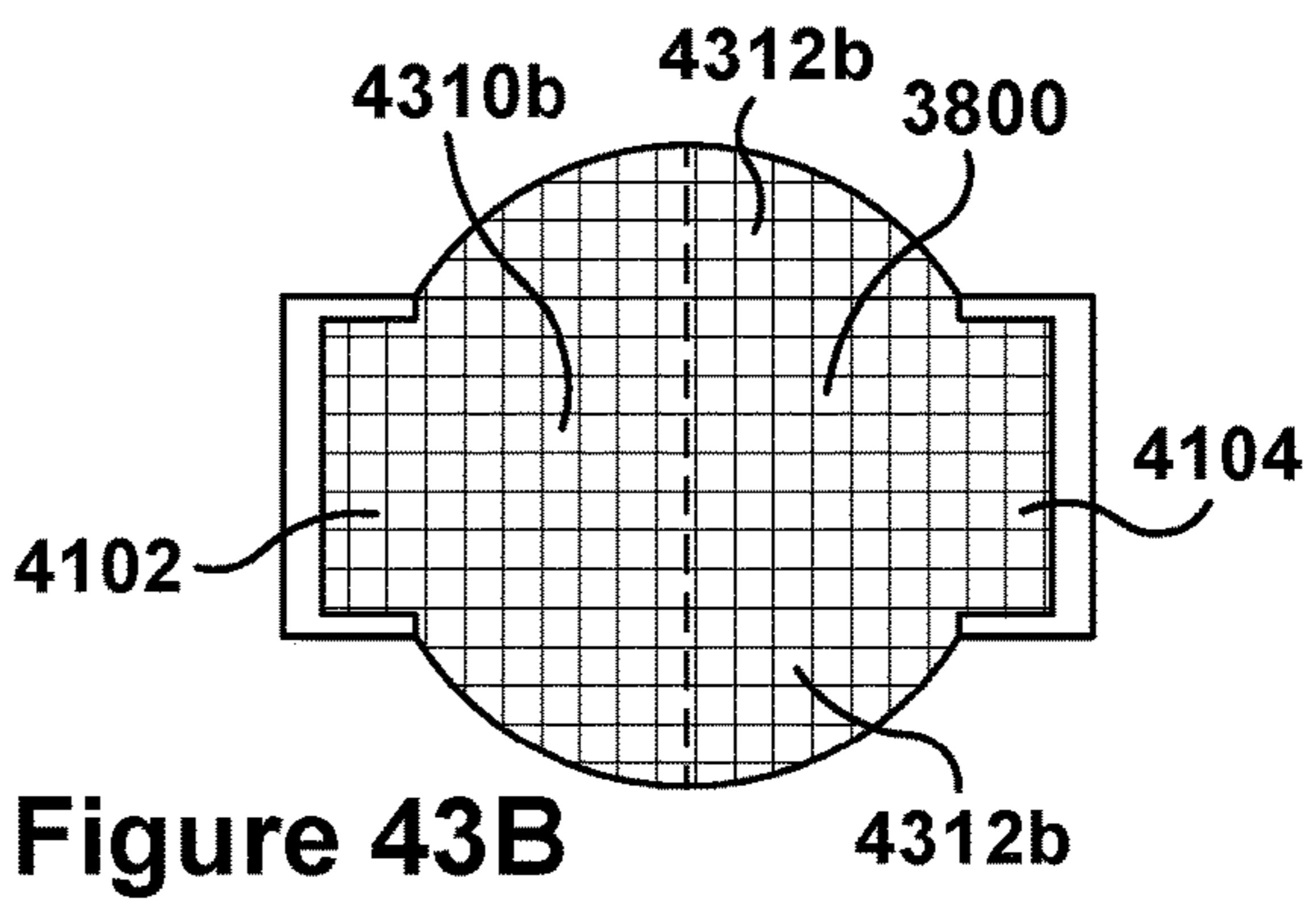


Figure 43B

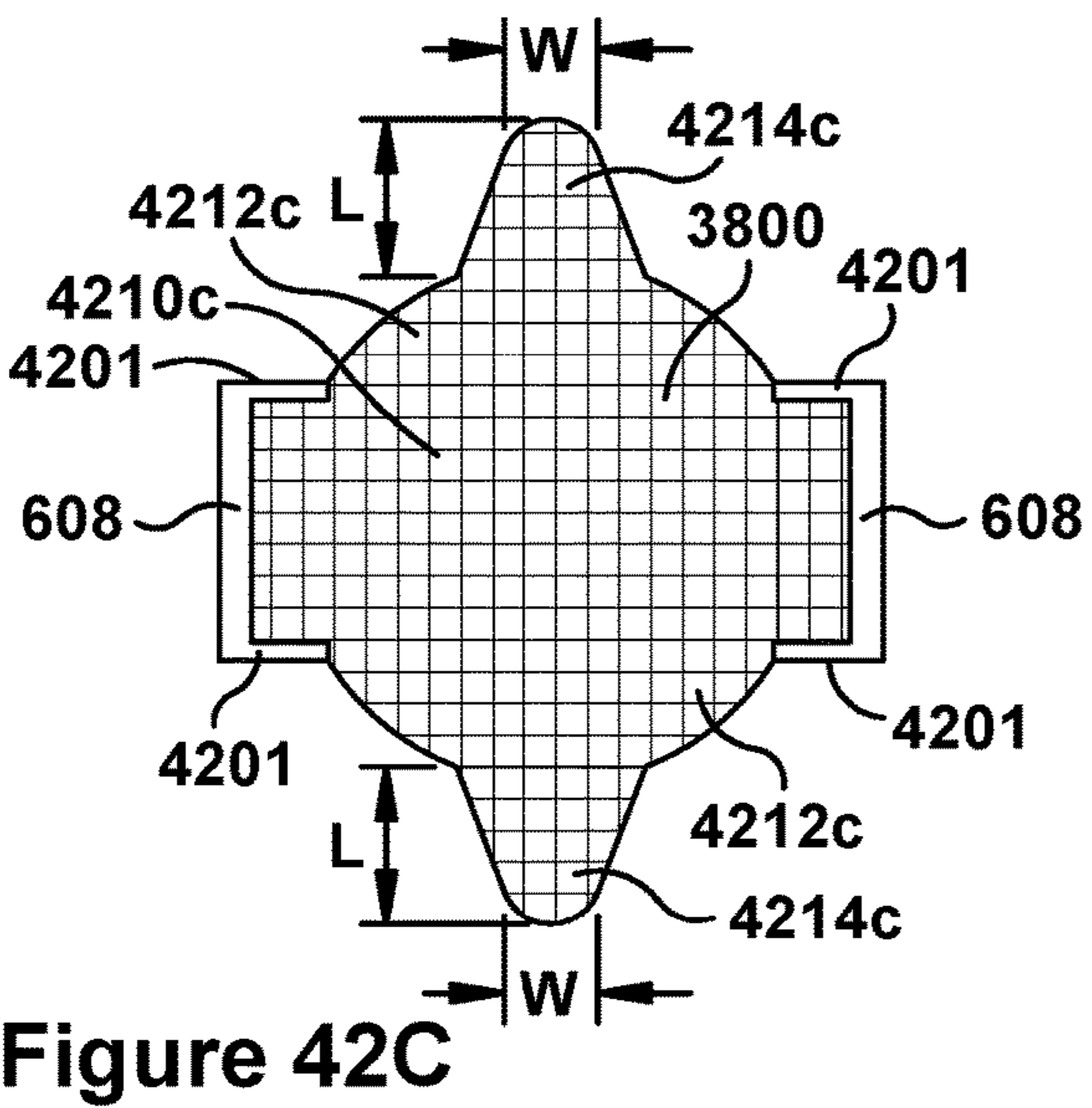


Figure 42C

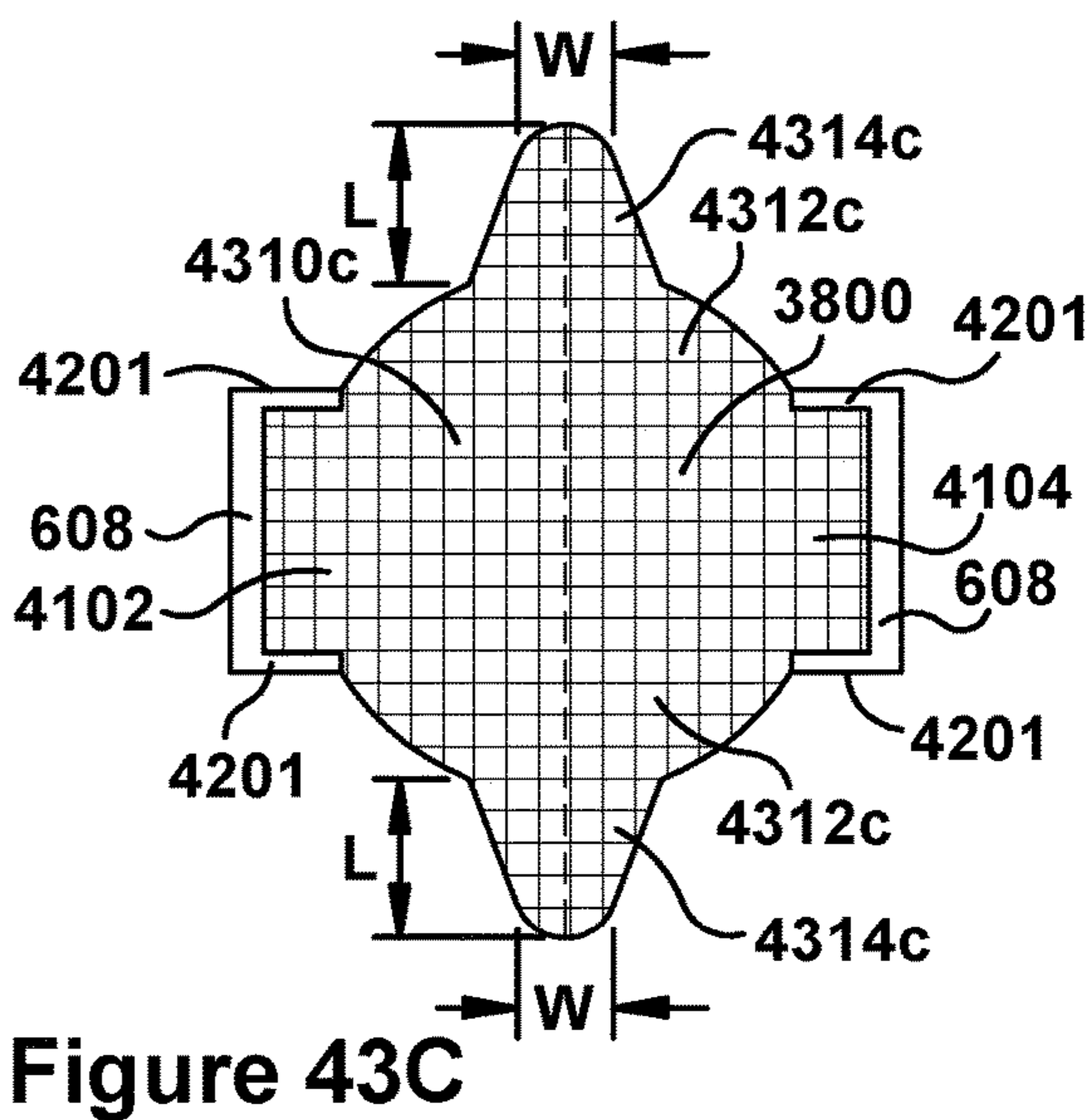


Figure 43C

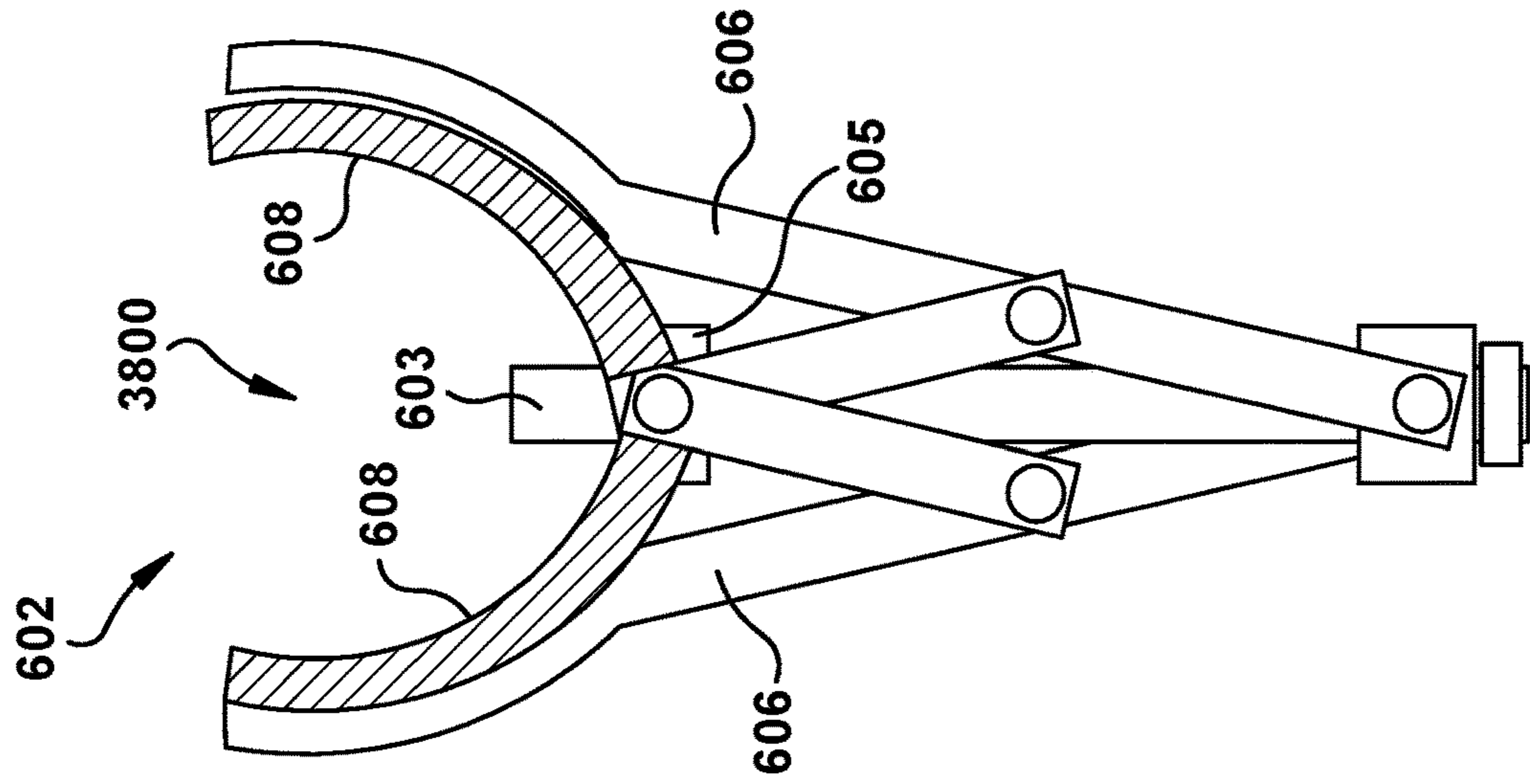


Figure 44B

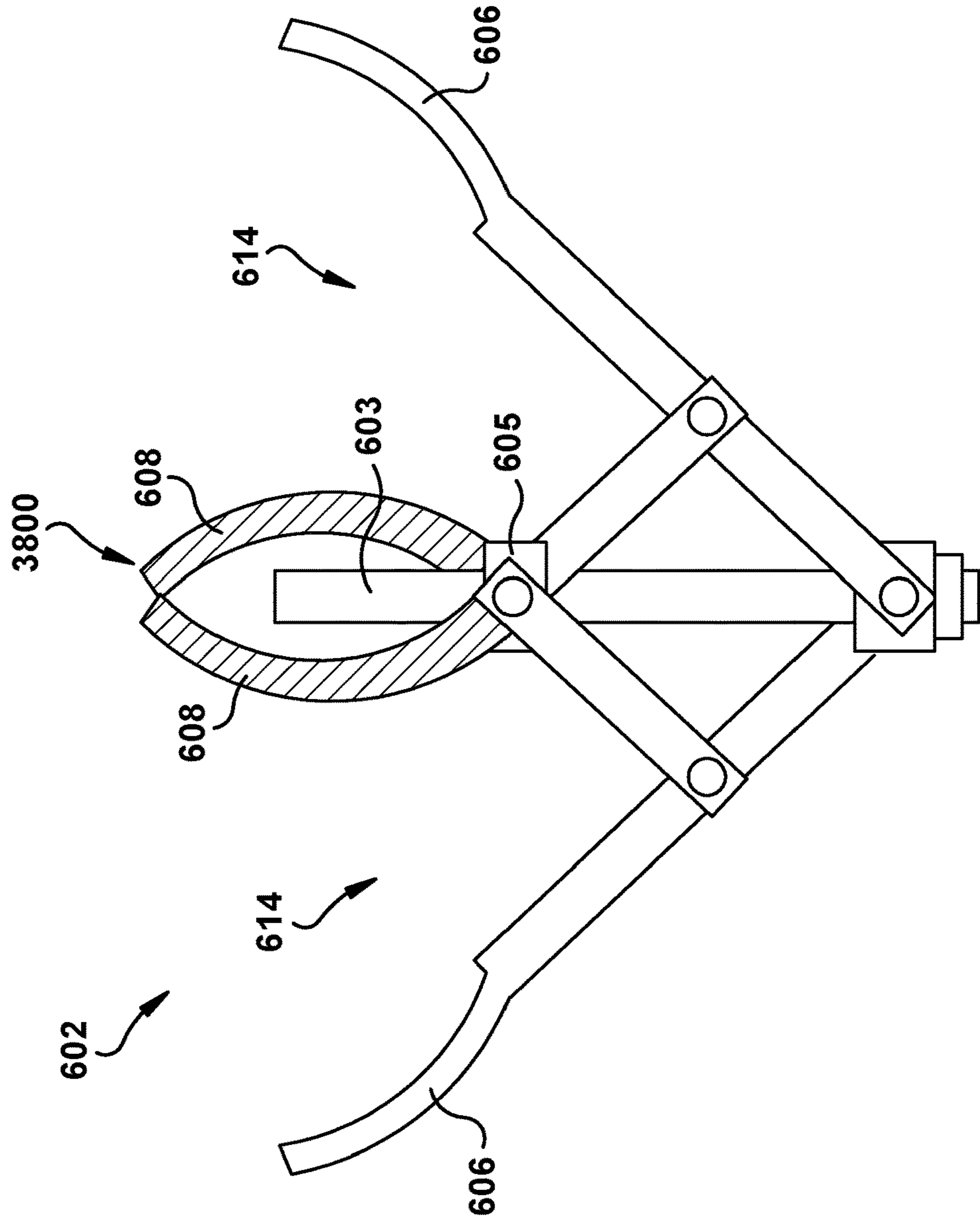


Figure 44A

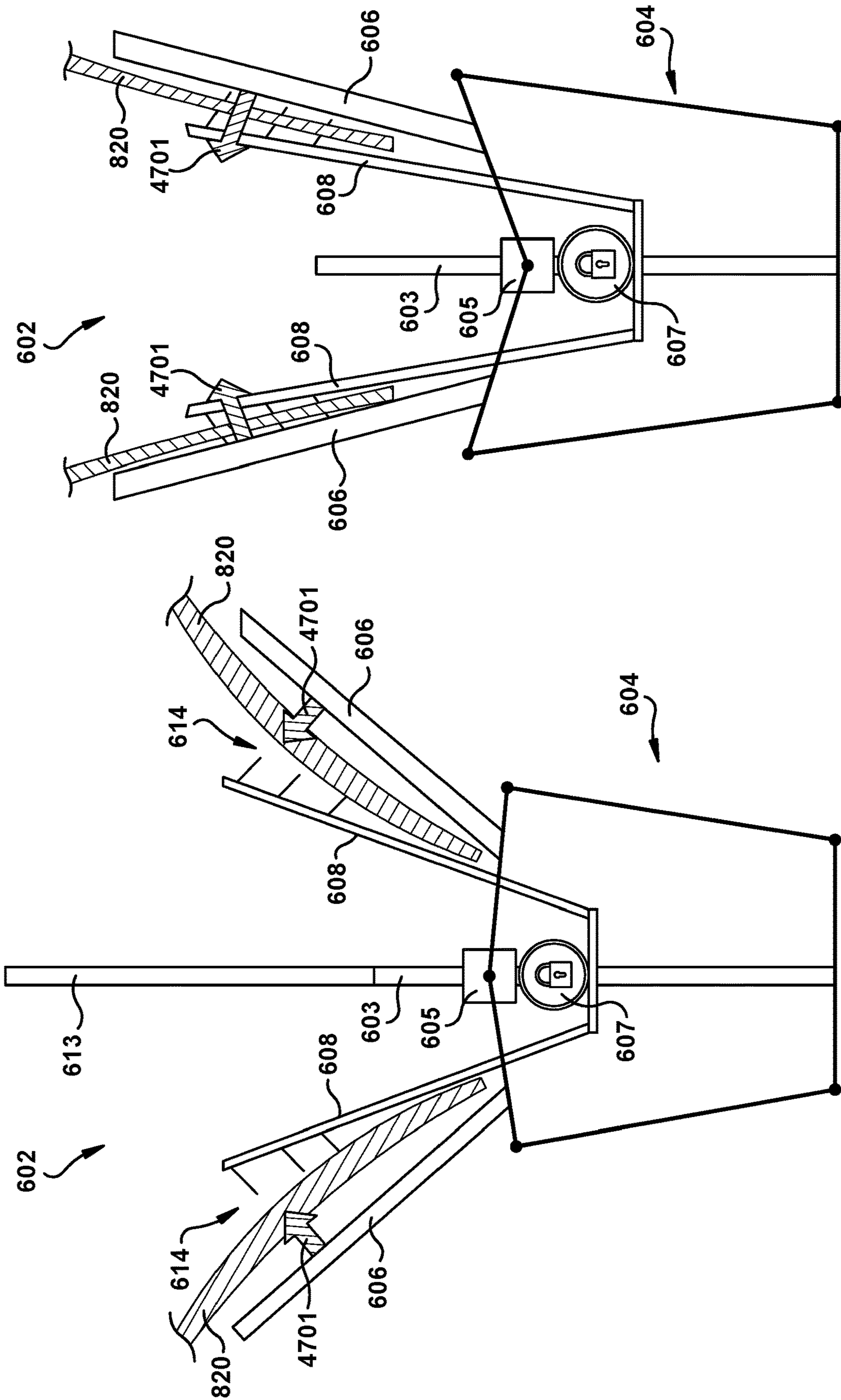


Figure 47B

Figure 47A

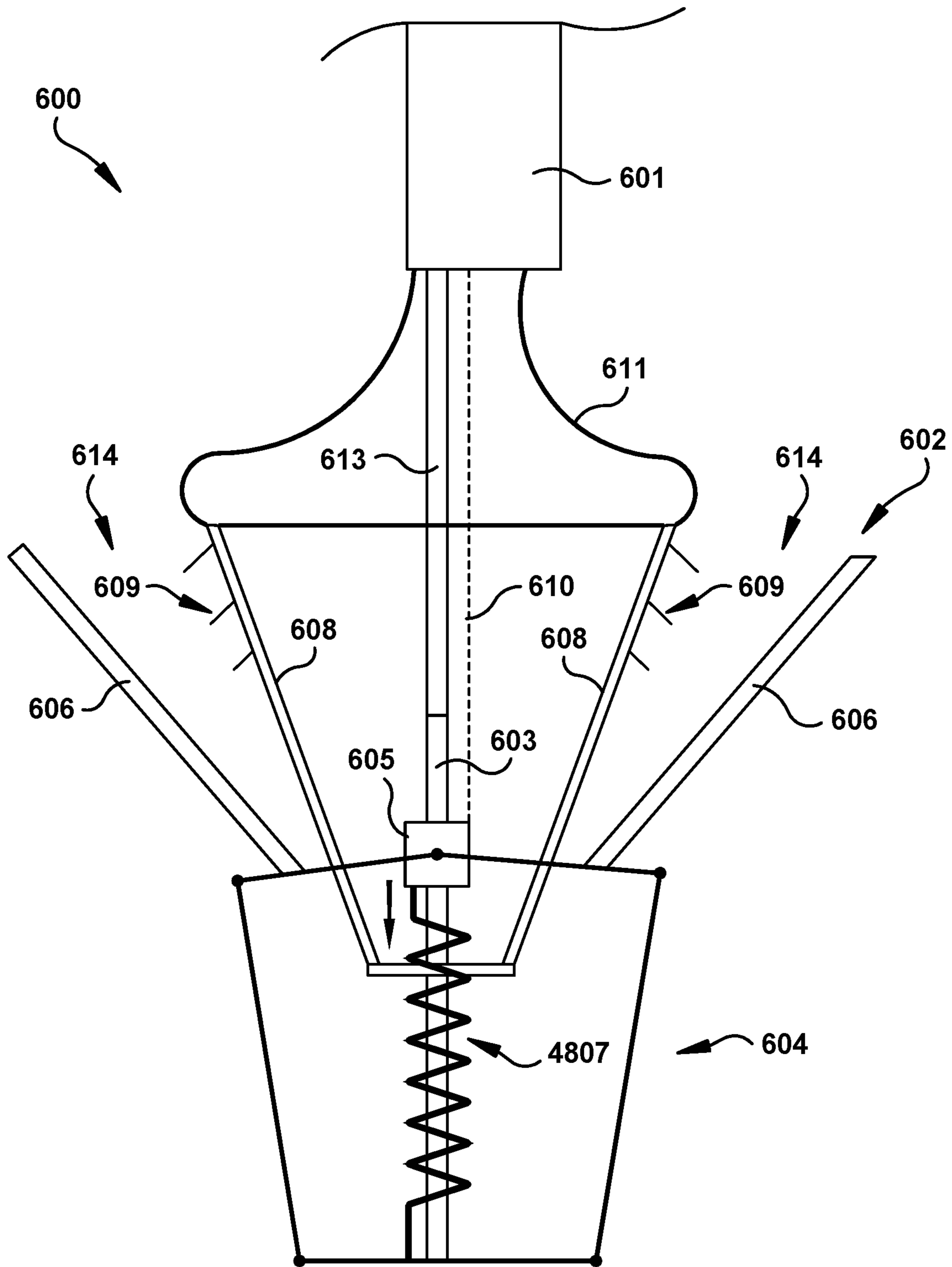


Figure 48

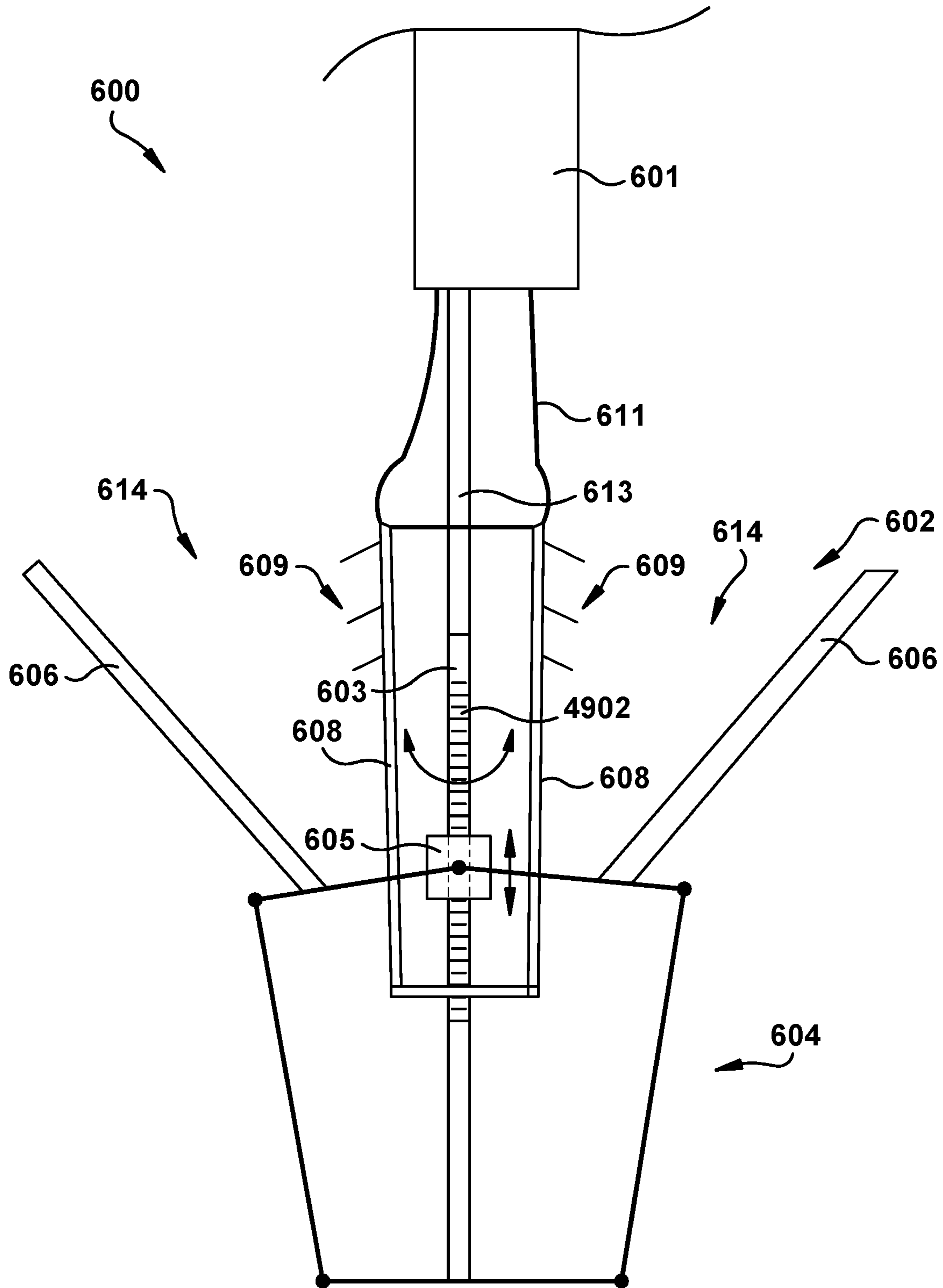


Figure 49

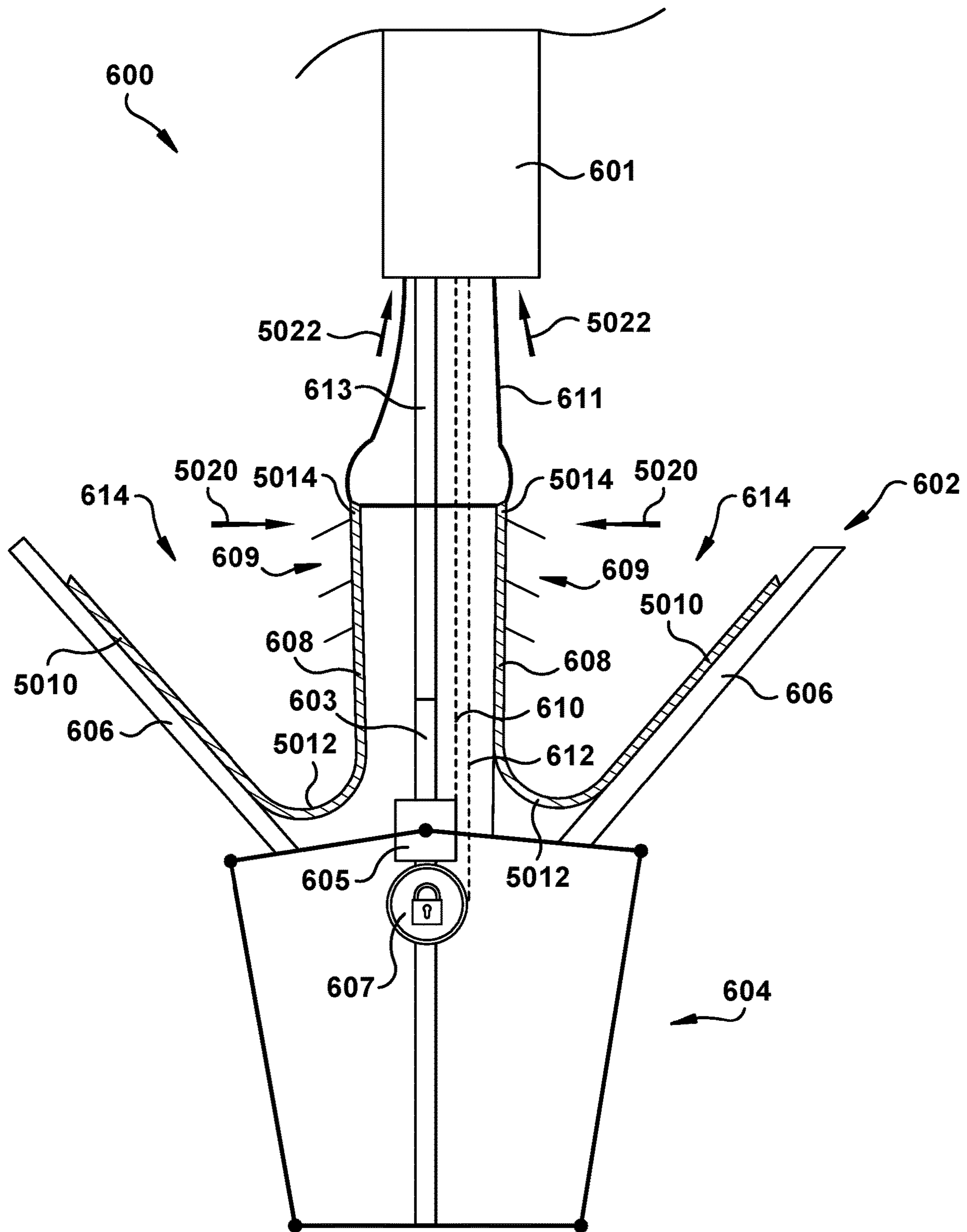


Figure 50

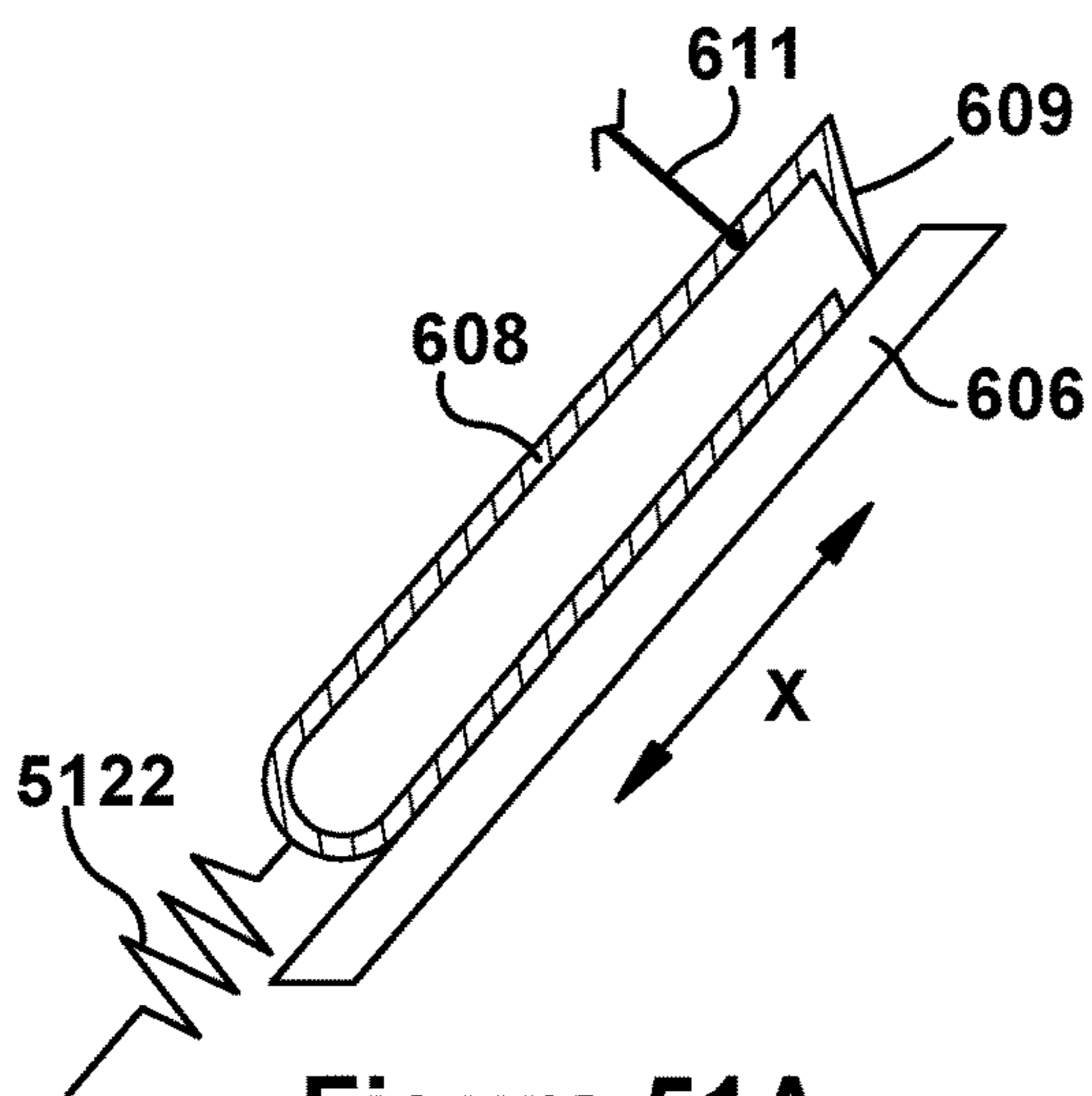


Figure 51A

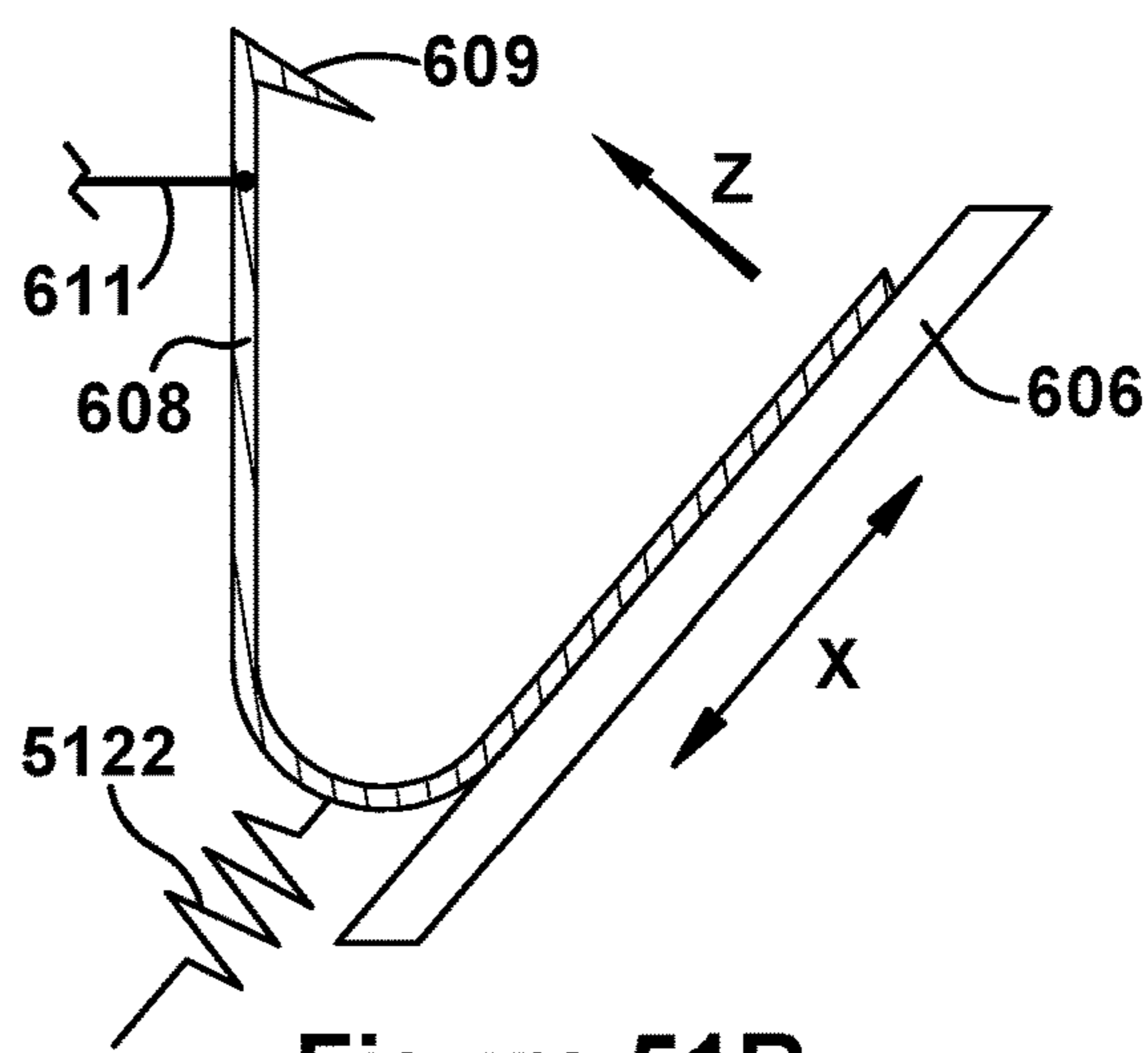


Figure 51B

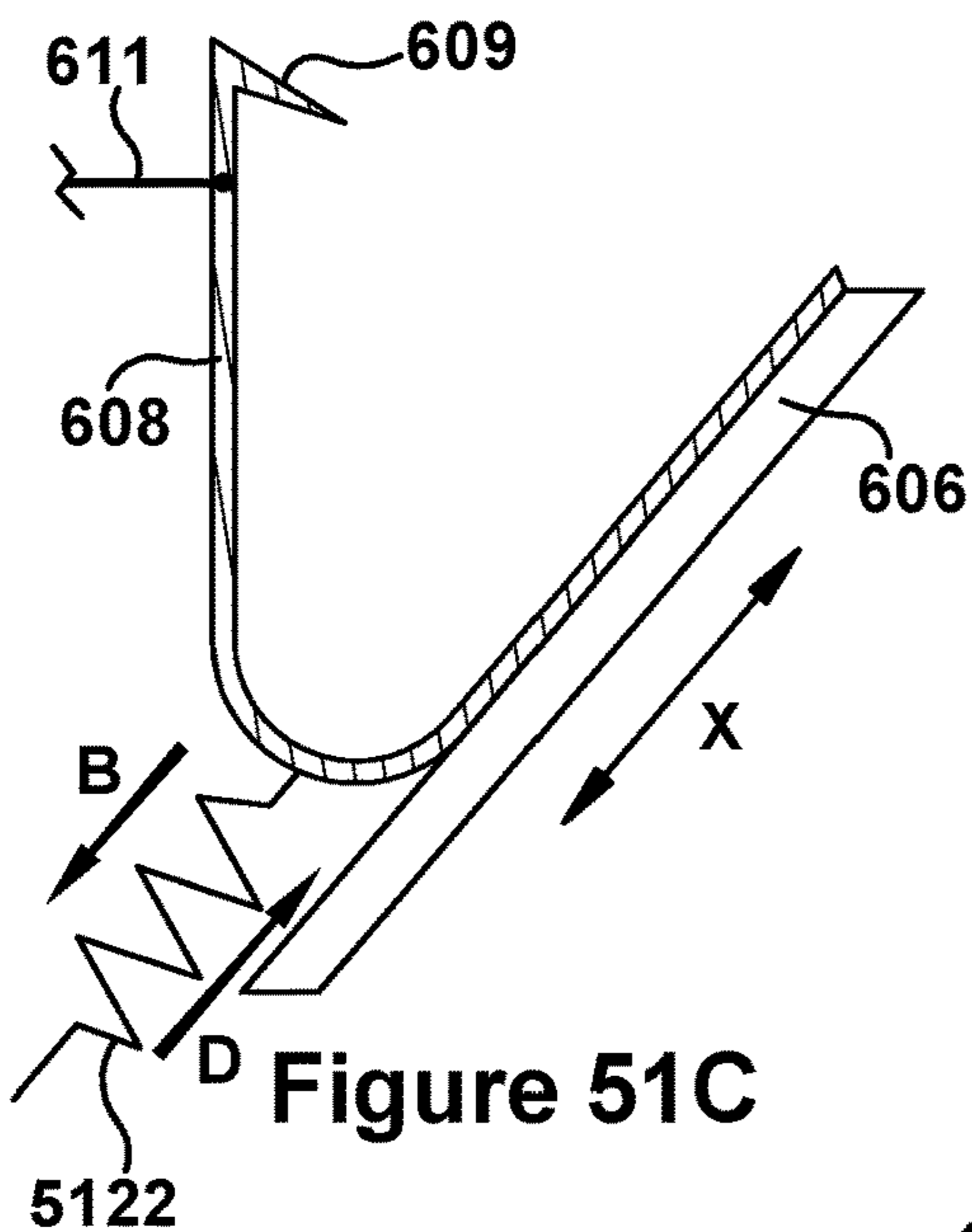


Figure 51C

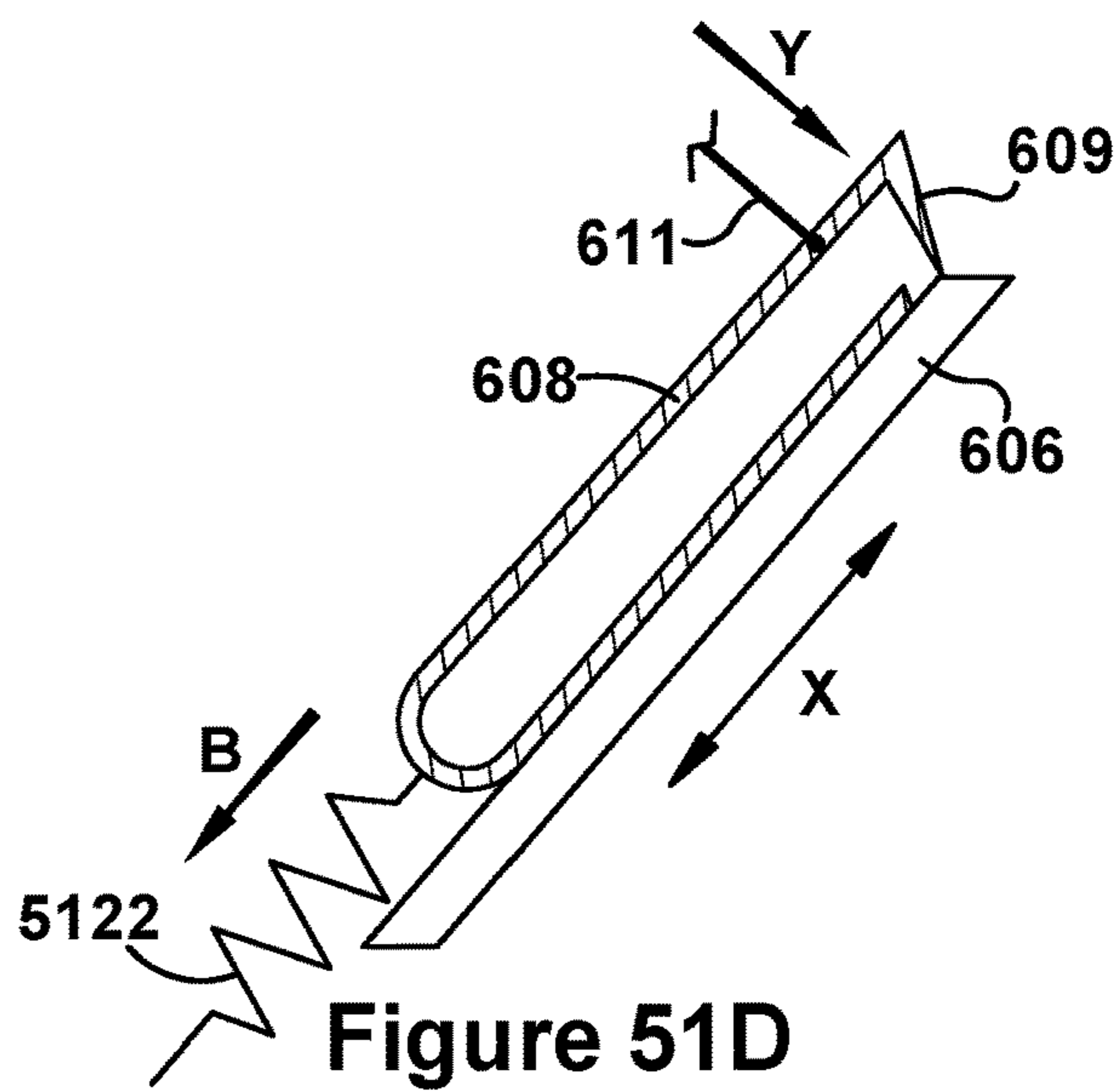


Figure 51D

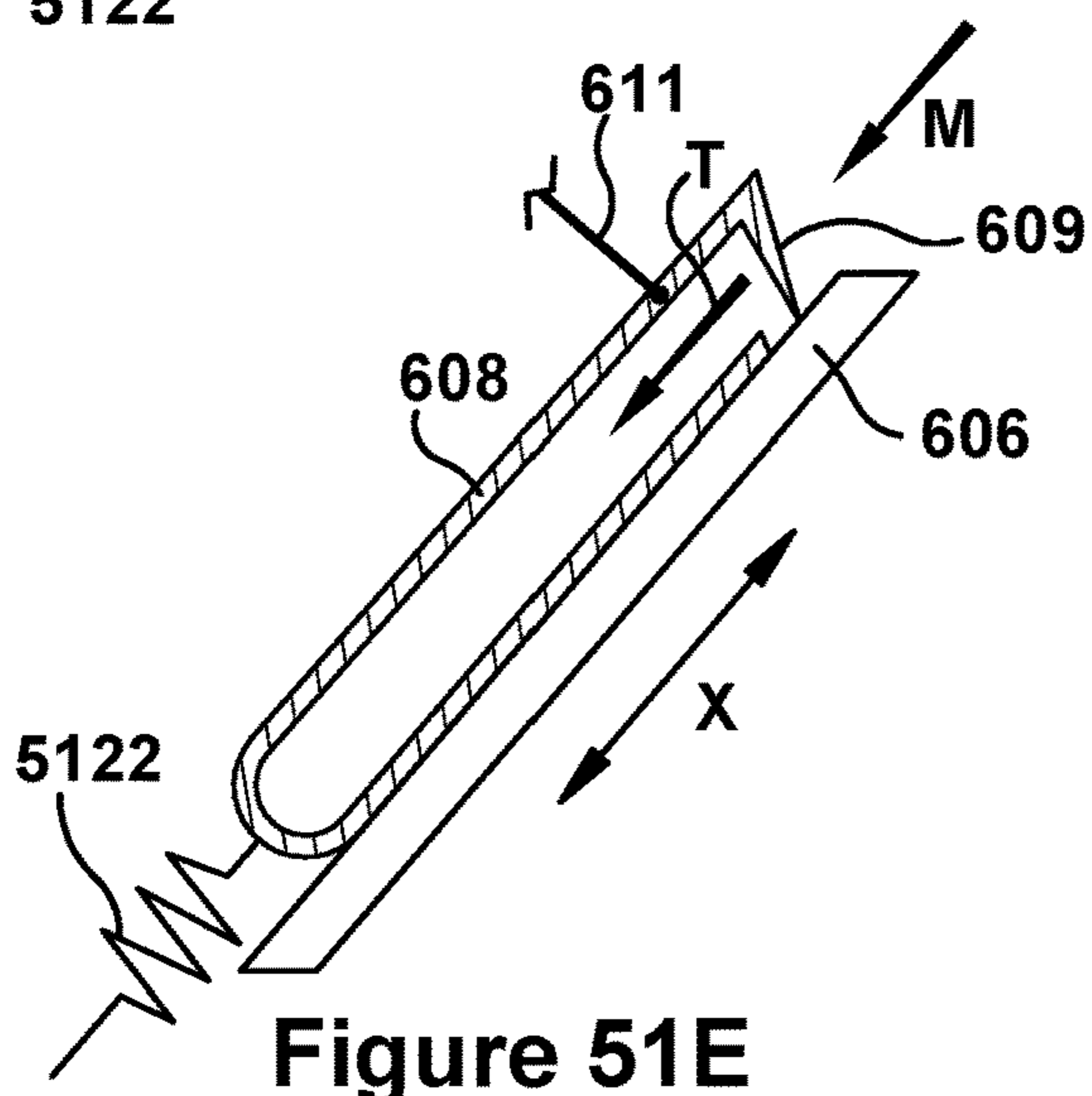


Figure 51E

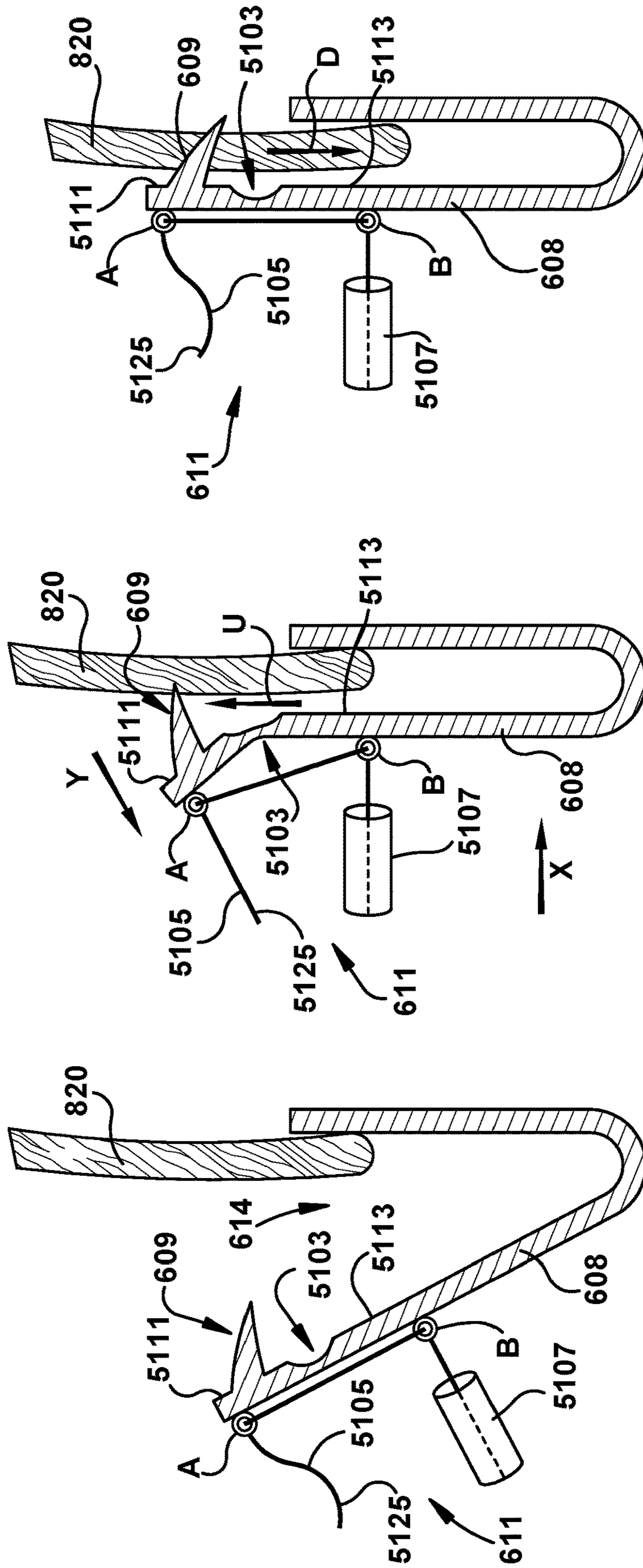


Figure 51F

Figure 51G

Figure 51H

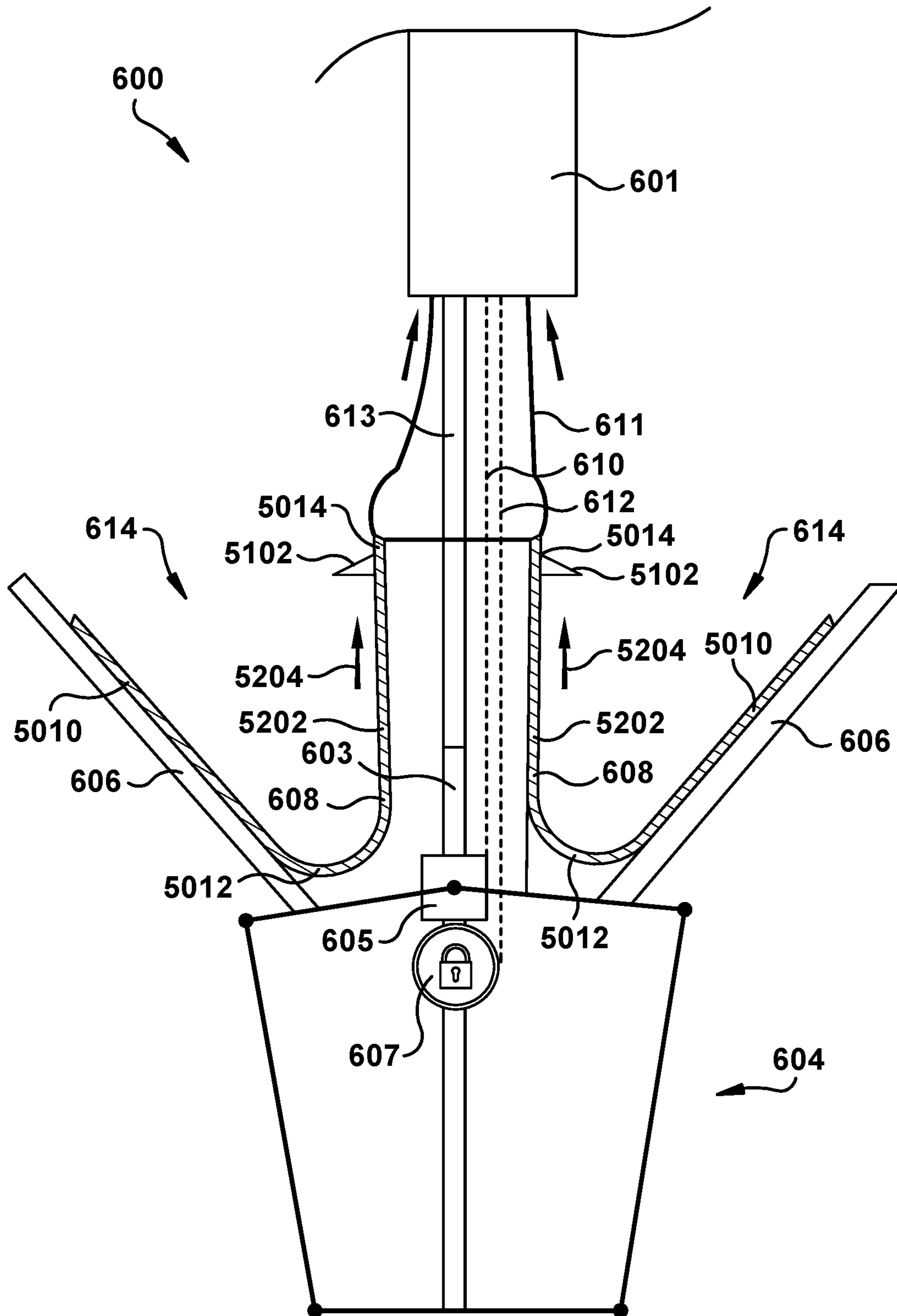


Figure 52

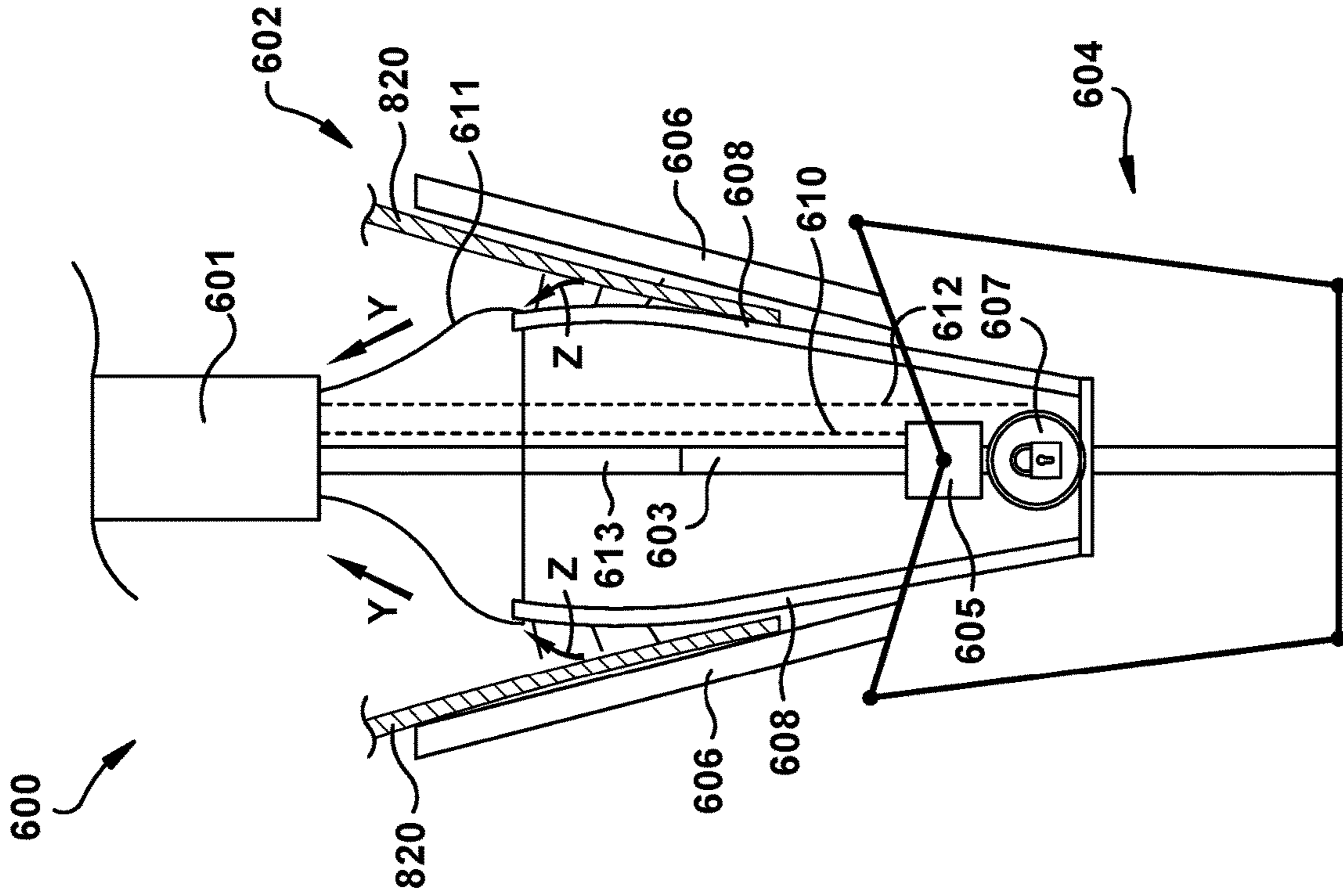


Figure 53B

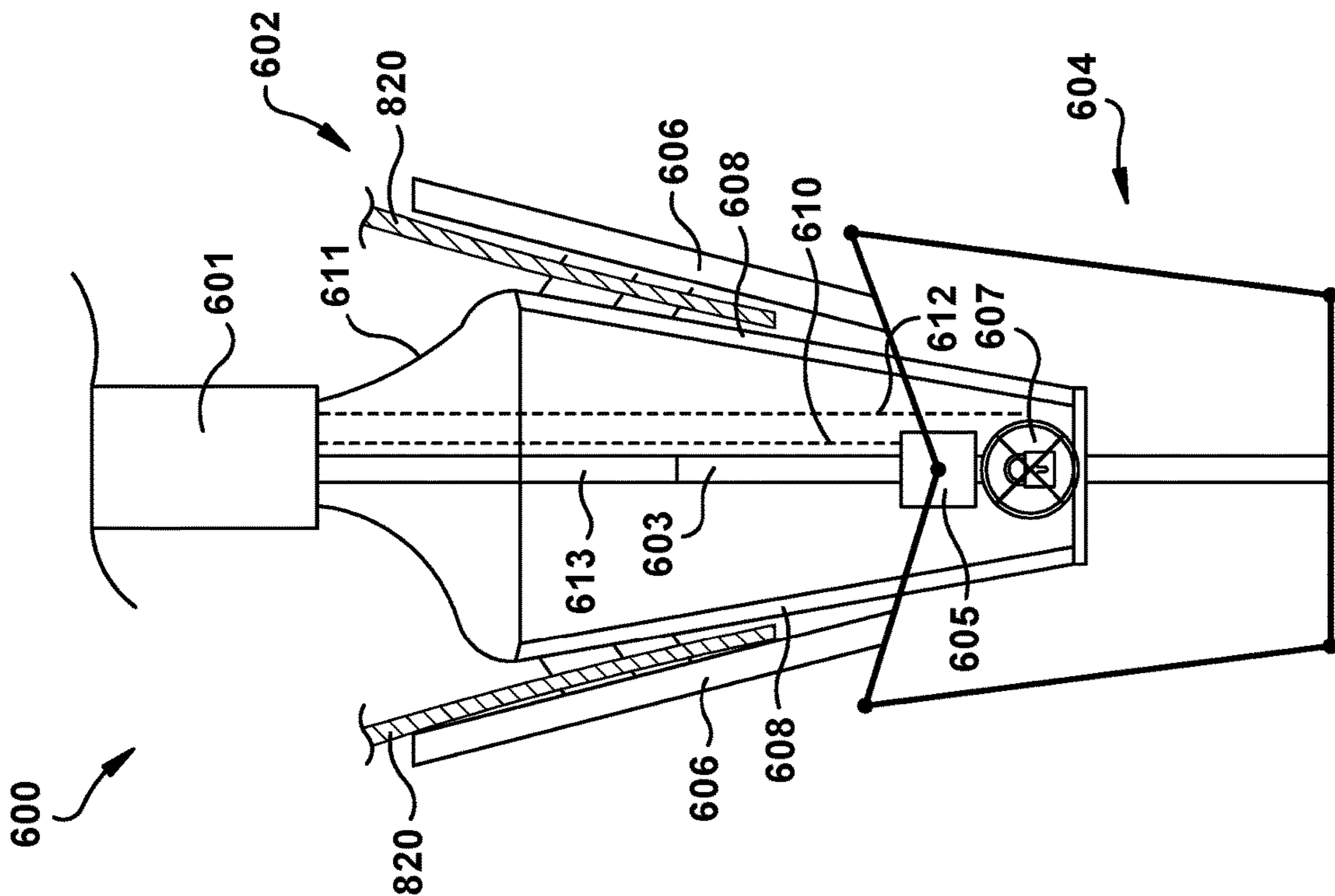


Figure 53A

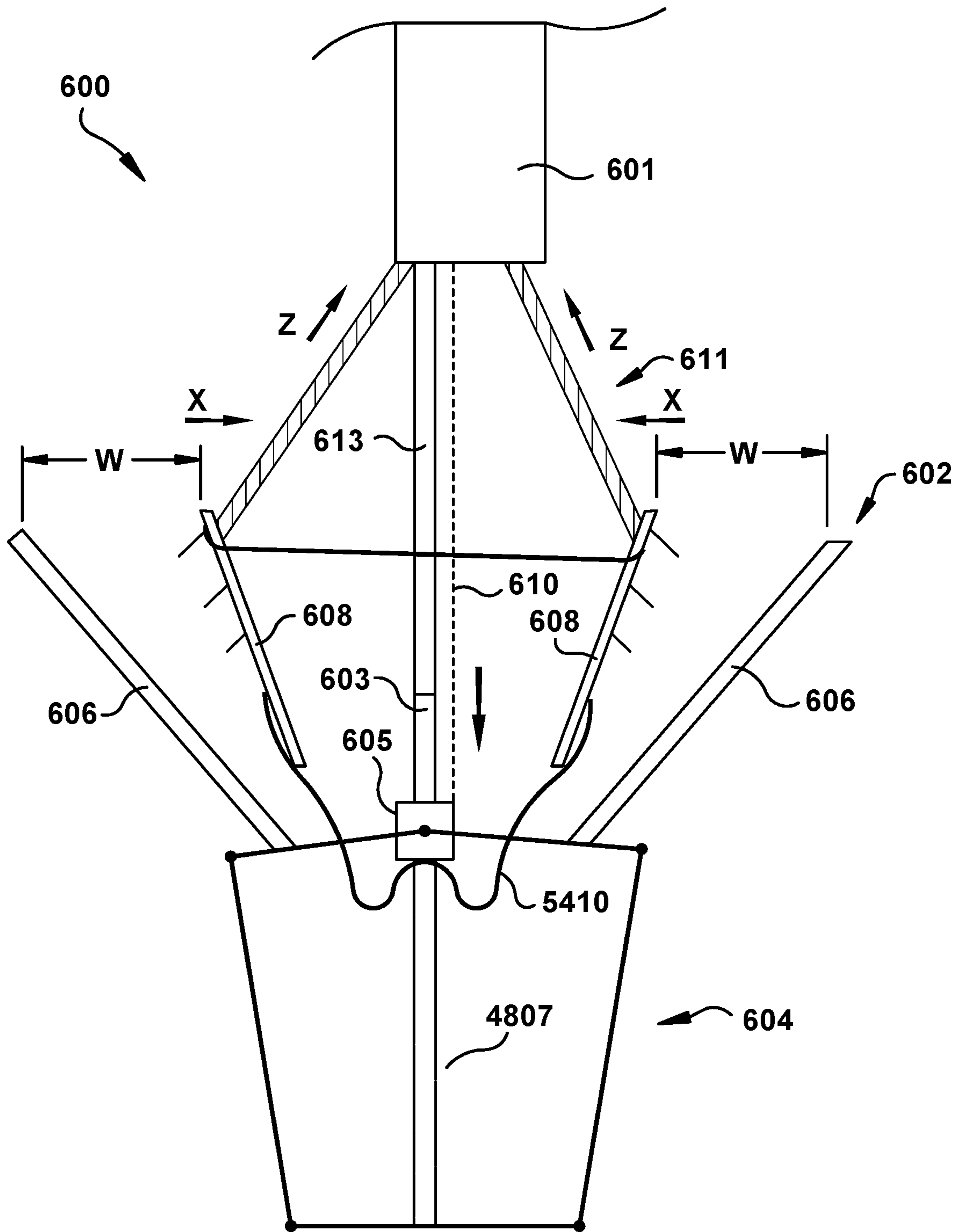


Figure 54

NATIVE VALVE REPAIR DEVICES AND PROCEDURES

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/865,924, filed Jan. 9, 2018, which is incorporated by reference herein.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present application relates generally to prosthetic devices and related methods for helping to seal native heart valves and prevent or reduce regurgitation therethrough, as well as devices and related methods for implanting such prosthetic devices.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The native heart valves (i.e., the aortic, pulmonary, tricuspid, and mitral valves) serve critical functions in assuring the forward flow of an adequate supply of blood through the cardiovascular system. These heart valves can be damaged, and thus rendered less effective, by congenital malformations, inflammatory processes, infectious conditions, or disease. Such damage to the valves can result in serious cardiovascular compromise or death. For many years the definitive treatment for such damaged valves was surgical repair or replacement of the valve during open heart surgery. However, open heart surgeries are highly invasive and are prone to many complications. Therefore, elderly and frail patients with defective heart valves often went untreated. More recently, transvascular techniques have been developed for introducing and implanting prosthetic devices in a manner that is much less invasive than open heart surgery. One particular transvascular technique that is used for accessing the native mitral and aortic valves is the transseptal technique. The transseptal technique comprises inserting a catheter into the right femoral vein, up the inferior vena cava and into the right atrium. The septum is then punctured and the catheter passed into the left atrium.

A healthy heart has a generally conical shape that tapers to a lower apex. The heart is four-chambered and comprises the left atrium, right atrium, left ventricle, and right ventricle. The left and right sides of the heart are separated by a wall generally referred to as the septum. The native mitral valve of the human heart connects the left atrium to the left ventricle. The mitral valve has a very different anatomy than other native heart valves. The mitral valve includes an annulus portion, which is an annular portion of the native valve tissue surrounding the mitral valve orifice, and a pair of cusps, or leaflets, extending downward from the annulus into the left ventricle. The mitral valve annulus can form a “D”-shaped, oval, or otherwise out-of-round cross-sectional shape having major and minor axes. The anterior leaflet can be larger than the posterior leaflet, forming a generally “C”-shaped boundary between the abutting free edges of the leaflets when they are closed together.

When operating properly, the anterior leaflet and the posterior leaflet function together as a one-way valve to allow blood to flow only from the left atrium to the left ventricle. The left atrium receives oxygenated blood from the pulmonary veins. When the muscles of the left atrium contract and the left ventricle dilates (also referred to as “ventricular diastole” or “diastole”), the oxygenated blood that is collected in the left atrium flows into the left ventricle.

When the muscles of the left atrium relax and the muscles of the left ventricle contract (also referred to as “ventricular systole” or “systole”), the increased blood pressure in the left ventricle urges the two leaflets together, thereby closing the one-way mitral valve so that blood cannot flow back to the left atrium and is instead expelled out of the left ventricle through the aortic valve. To prevent the two leaflets from prolapsing under pressure and folding back through the mitral annulus toward the left atrium, a plurality of fibrous cords called chordae tendineae tether the leaflets to papillary muscles in the left ventricle.

Mitral regurgitation occurs when the native mitral valve fails to close properly and blood flows into the left atrium from the left ventricle during the systolic phase of heart contraction. Mitral regurgitation is the most common form of valvular heart disease. Mitral regurgitation has different causes, such as leaflet prolapse, dysfunctional papillary muscles and/or stretching of the mitral valve annulus resulting from dilation of the left ventricle. Mitral regurgitation at a central portion of the leaflets can be referred to as central jet mitral regurgitation and mitral regurgitation nearer to one commissure (i.e., location where the leaflets meet) of the leaflets can be referred to as eccentric jet mitral regurgitation. For central jet regurgitation, the edges of the leaflets do not meet in the middle. Therefore, the valve does not close and regurgitation is present.

Some prior techniques for treating mitral regurgitation in patients include surgically stitching the edges of the native mitral valve leaflets directly to one another. A catheter delivered clip has been used to attempt to clip the edges of the leaflets together like the surgical stitching method. However, this clip has shortcomings, since it can only be used to clip the middle edges of the leaflets where they overlap by 2 mm or more. Alternately, it has been attempted to use multiple clips on the commissures of the mitral valve, where there may be more overlap. This results in a longer operation time and the patient’s leaflets are joined at the sides, restricting blood flow. Both the surgical and clip treatments are thought to create stress on patient leaflets.

Despite these prior techniques, there is a continuing need for improved devices and methods for treating mitral valve regurgitation.

SUMMARY

An exemplary valve repair device for repairing a native valve of a patient includes a pair of paddles, and a pair of gripping members. The paddles are movable between an open position and a closed position. The paddles and the gripping members are configured to attach to the native valve of the patient. The paddles are biased to the closed position, latched to the gripping members in the closed position, maintained in the closed position by a threaded connection, or otherwise maintained in the closed position.

An exemplary valve repair device for repairing a native valve of a patient includes a base assembly, a pair of paddles attached to the base assembly, and a pair of gripping members attached to the base assembly. Each paddle of the pair of paddles include a latch member, and the paddles are movable between an open position and a closed position. The paddles and the gripping members are configured to attach to the native valve of the patient. When the paddles are in the closed position, the latch member of each of the paddles attaches each of the paddles to a corresponding gripping member of the pair of gripping members.

An exemplary valve repair device for repairing a native valve of a patient includes a base assembly, a pair of paddles,

a pair of gripping members, and a pair of biasing members. The base assembly has a shaft and a coupler movably attached to the shaft such that the coupler can be moved along the shaft. The pair of paddles are attached to the coupler of the base assembly, and the paddles are movable between an open position and a closed position. The pair of gripping members are attached to the base assembly, and the paddles and the gripping members are configured to attach to the native valve of the patient. The biasing member is mechanically attached to the coupler of the base assembly, and the biasing member is configured to maintain the coupler in a position on the shaft that causes the paddles to be in the closed position when the valve repair device is attached to the native valve of the patient.

Another exemplary valve repair device for repairing a native valve of a patient includes a base assembly, a pair of paddles, and a pair of gripping members. The base assembly has a shaft having external threads, and the base assembly has a coupler having internal threads that mate with the threaded portion of the shaft such that the coupler can be moved along the shaft. The pair of paddles are attached to the coupler of the base assembly, and the paddles are movable between an open position and a closed position. The pair of gripping members are attached to the base assembly, and the paddles and the gripping members are configured to attach to the native valve of the patient. Movement of the coupler along the shaft causes the pair of paddles to move between the open position and the closed position. The internal threads and the external threads are configured to prevent movement of the paddles from the closed position to the open position without rotating the shaft.

A further understanding of the nature and advantages of the present invention are set forth in the following description and claims, particularly when considered in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which like parts bear like reference numerals.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

To further clarify various aspects of embodiments of the present disclosure, a more particular description of the certain embodiments will be made by reference to various aspects of the appended drawings. It is appreciated that these drawings depict only typical embodiments of the present disclosure and are therefore not to be considered limiting of the scope of the disclosure. Moreover, while the figures can be drawn to scale for some embodiments, the figures are not necessarily drawn to scale for all embodiments. Embodiments of the present disclosure will be described and explained with additional specificity and detail through the use of the accompanying drawings.

FIG. 1 illustrates a cutaway view of the human heart in a diastolic phase;

FIG. 2 illustrates a cutaway view of the human heart in a systolic phase;

FIG. 3 illustrates a healthy mitral valve with the leaflets closed as viewed from an atrial side of the mitral valve;

FIG. 4 illustrates a dysfunctional mitral valve with a visible gap between the leaflets as viewed from an atrial side of the mitral valve;

FIG. 4A illustrates tricuspid valve viewed from an atrial side of the tricuspid valve;

FIG. 5 illustrates a cutaway view of the human heart in a diastolic phase, in which the chordae tendineae are shown attaching the leaflets of the mitral and tricuspid valves to ventricle walls;

FIG. 6 illustrates a valve repair device with paddles in an open position;

FIG. 7 illustrates the valve repair device of FIG. 6, in which the paddles are in the open position and gripping members are moved to create a wider gap between the gripping members and paddles;

FIG. 8 illustrates the valve repair device of FIG. 6, in which the valve repair device is in the position shown in FIG. 7 with valve tissue placed between the gripping members and the paddles;

FIG. 9 illustrates the valve repair device of FIG. 6, in which the gripping members are moved to lessen the gap between the gripping members and the paddles;

FIGS. 10A-10B illustrate the movement of the paddles of the valve repair device of FIG. 6 from the open position to a closed position;

FIG. 11 illustrates the valve repair device of FIG. 6 in a closed position, in which the gripping members are engaging valve tissue;

FIG. 12 illustrates the valve repair device of FIG. 6 after being disconnected from a delivery device and attached to valve tissue, in which the valve repair device is in a closed and locked condition;

FIG. 13A illustrates an exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device attached to the anterior leaflet and the posterior leaflet of a patient's mitral valve, shown from the left atrium of the patient's heart with the valve repair device and leaflet tissue on the ventricular side shown in hidden lines;

FIG. 13B is an enlarged version of FIG. 13A;

FIG. 14A is another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device attached to the anterior leaflet and the posterior leaflet of a patient's mitral valve with the valve repair device and leaflet tissue on the ventricular side shown in hidden lines;

FIG. 14B is another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device attached to the anterior leaflet and the posterior leaflet of a patient's mitral valve, in which the valve repair device includes paddles that flex to place less stress on the mitral valve tissue with the valve repair device and leaflet tissue on the ventricular side shown in hidden lines;

FIGS. 15A-15B illustrate another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device, in which the valve repair device includes paddles that flex along their length to place less stress on valve tissue when the valve repair device is attached to the valve tissue;

FIGS. 16A-16F illustrate another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device, in which the valve repair device includes compressible paddles that comprise an exemplary embodiment of a wire loop;

FIGS. 16G-16H illustrate another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device, in which the valve repair device includes compressible paddles that comprise another exemplary embodiment of a wire loop;

FIGS. 16I-16J illustrate another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device, in which the valve repair device includes compressible paddles that comprise another exemplary embodiment of a wire loop;

FIGS. 17A-17F illustrate another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device, in which the valve repair device includes compressible paddles having a horseshoe shape;

FIGS. 18A-18D illustrate another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device, in which the valve repair device includes compressible paddles having a horseshoe shape;

FIGS. 18E and 18F illustrate a compressible paddle that is similar to the compressible paddle shown in FIGS. 18C and 18D, except legs of the paddle do not cross when the paddle is loaded into a catheter;

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FIGS. 19A-19D illustrate another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device, in which the valve repair device includes compressible mesh paddles;

FIGS. 20A-20B illustrate an exemplary embodiment of a paddle for a valve repair device, in which the paddle is compressible;

FIGS. 21A-21B illustrate another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device, in which the paddles of the valve repair device are extendable;

FIG. 22 illustrates another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair assembly where a gripper control mechanism is configured to control each gripper member of a valve repair device independently;

FIGS. 22A-22D illustrate another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair assembly where an exemplary embodiment of gripper control mechanism is configured to control four gripper members of an exemplary embodiment of valve repair device independently of each other;

FIG. 23 illustrates another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair assembly where a gripper control mechanism is configured to control each gripper member of a valve repair device independently;

FIG. 24 illustrates an exemplary embodiment of a connection between a placement shaft and a paddle control mechanism shaft of the valve repair device of FIG. 23, in which the gripper control mechanism is attached to the valve repair device at the connection between the placement shaft and the paddle control mechanism shaft;

FIGS. 24A-24B illustrate an exemplary embodiment of a connection between a placement shaft and a paddle control mechanism shaft of the valve repair device of FIG. 23, in which the gripper control mechanism is attached to the valve repair device at the connection between the placement shaft and the shaft of the valve repair device.

FIG. 25 illustrates another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair assembly in which a gripper control mechanism is configured to control each gripper member of a valve repair device independently of each other;

FIG. 25A illustrates another exemplary embodiment of a gripper control mechanism that is configured to control each gripper member of a valve repair device independently of each other;

FIG. 26 illustrates another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair assembly in which a gripper control mechanism is configured to control each gripper member of a valve repair device independently of each other;

FIGS. 27A-27C illustrate another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device where each paddle of the valve repair device can be independently moved from an open position to a closed position;

FIGS. 28A-28F illustrate another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device where each paddle of the valve repair device can be independently moved from an open position to a closed position;

FIGS. 29A-29B illustrate another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device where each paddle of the valve repair device can be independently moved from an open position to a closed position independent of each other;

FIG. 30 illustrates a mitral valve having a wide gap between the posterior leaflet and the anterior leaflet;

FIGS. 31A-31B illustrate another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device, in which the paddles of the valve repair device expand to create a wide gap for receiving valve tissue;

FIGS. 32A-32C illustrate another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device, in which the valve repair device is

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configured such that paddles of the valve repair device expand by pivoting and spreading apart to create a wide gap for receiving valve tissue;

FIGS. 33A-33C illustrate another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device, in which the valve repair device is configured such that paddles of the valve repair device expand by spreading apart and pivoting to create a wide gap for receiving valve tissue;

FIGS. 34A-34B illustrate another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device, in which a "W"-shaped mechanism expands the paddles of the valve repair device to create a wide gap;

FIGS. 34C-34D illustrate another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device, in which a "W"-shaped mechanism expands the paddles of the valve repair device to create a wide gap;

FIGS. 35A-35B illustrate another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device, in which a "W"-shaped mechanism expands paddles of the valve repair device to create a wide gap for receiving valve tissue;

FIGS. 36A-36B illustrate another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device, in which a "W"-shaped mechanism expands paddles of the valve repair device to create a wide gap;

FIG. 36C illustrate an exemplary embodiment of a paddle control mechanism for the valve repair device of FIGS. 36A-36B;

FIGS. 36D-36E illustrate another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device, in which a "W"-shaped mechanism expands paddles of the valve repair device to create a wide gap;

FIGS. 37A-37D illustrate another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device with mesh paddles and an internal cam for spreading the mesh paddles apart to create a wide gap for spaced apart valve tissues;

FIGS. 37E-37F illustrate another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device with mesh paddles and an internal cam for spreading the mesh paddles apart to create a wide gap for spaced apart valve tissues;

FIG. 38 illustrates an exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device that includes an exemplary embodiment of a spacer element, in which the valve repair device is attached to a mitral valve;

FIG. 39 illustrates another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device that includes an exemplary embodiment of a spacer element, and in which the valve repair device is attached to a mitral valve;

FIGS. 40A-40B illustrate another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device that includes an exemplary embodiment of a spacer element, in which the spacer element is attached to a shaft of the valve repair device;

FIGS. 41A-41D illustrate another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device that includes an exemplary embodiment of a spacer element with a first portion attached to a first gripping member of the valve repair device and a second portion attached to a second gripping member of the valve repair device;

FIGS. 42A-42C illustrate the valve repair device of FIGS. 40A-40B with the spacer element having various shapes;

FIGS. 43A-43C illustrate the valve repair device of FIGS. 41A-41B with the spacer element having various shapes;

FIGS. 44A-44B illustrate another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device with paddles that spread wider and an expanding spacer element;

FIGS. 45A-45C illustrate another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device with an increased bailout angle for removing the valve repair device;

FIGS. 46A-46D illustrate another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device with an increased bailout angle for removing the valve repair device;

FIGS. 47A-47B illustrate another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device with an attachment member for connecting the paddles to the grippers when the valve repair device is in a closed position;

FIG. 48 illustrates another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device having a spring member that is configured to bias the paddles of the valve repair device to a closed position;

FIG. 49 illustrates another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device having a threaded mechanism for moving the valve repair device between the open position and the closed position;

FIG. 50 illustrates another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device having gripping members attached to the paddles;

FIG. 51 illustrates another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device having gripping members with a single row of barbs;

FIGS. 51A-51E illustrate another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair system having a valve repair assembly with a valve repair device having gripping members configured to place a tensioning force on valve tissue when the valve repair device is attached to the valve tissue;

FIGS. 51F-51H illustrate another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair assembly having gripping members configured to place a tensioning force on valve tissue when the valve repair device is attached to the valve tissue;

FIG. 52 illustrates another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device having gripping members that are extendable in length;

FIGS. 53A-53B illustrate another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device having gripping members that are flexible; and

FIG. 54 illustrate another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device, in which gripping members are attached to a separate spring member.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The following description refers to the accompanying drawings, which illustrate specific embodiments of the invention. Other embodiments having different structures and operation do not depart from the scope of the present invention.

Exemplary embodiments of the present disclosure are directed to devices and methods for repairing a defective heart valve. It should be noted that various embodiments of native valve reparation devices and systems for delivery are disclosed herein, and any combination of these options can be made unless specifically excluded. In other words, individual components of the disclosed devices and systems can be combined unless mutually exclusive or otherwise physically impossible.

FIGS. 1 and 2 are cutaway views of the human heart H in diastolic and systolic phases, respectively. The right ventricle RV and left ventricle LV are separated from the right atrium RA and left atrium LA, respectively, by the tricuspid valve TV and mitral valve MV; i.e., the atrioventricular valves. Additionally, the aortic valve AV separates the left ventricle LV from the ascending aorta AA, and the pulmonary valve PV separates the right ventricle from the pulmonary artery PA. Each of these valves has flexible leaflets (e.g., leaflets 302, 304 shown in FIGS. 3 and 4) extending inward across the respective orifices that come together or

“coapt” in the flowstream to form the one-way, fluid-occluding surfaces. The native valve repair systems of the present application are described primarily with respect to the mitral valve MV. Therefore, anatomical structures of the left atrium LA and Left ventricle LV will be explained in greater detail. It should be understood that the devices described herein may also be used in repairing other native valves, e.g., the devices can be used in repairing the tricuspid valve TV, the aortic valve AV, and the pulmonary valve PV.

The left atrium LA receives oxygenated blood from the lungs. During the diastolic phase, or diastole, seen in FIG. 1, the blood that was previously collected in the left atrium LA (during the systolic phase) moves through the mitral valve MV and into the left ventricle LV by expansion of the left ventricle LV. In the systolic phase, or systole, seen in FIG. 2, the left ventricle LV contracts to force the blood through the aortic valve AV and ascending aorta AA into the body. During systole, the leaflets of the mitral valve MV close to prevent the blood from regurgitating from the left ventricle LV and back into the left atrium LA, and blood is collected in the left atrium from the pulmonary vein. In one exemplary embodiment, the devices described by the present application are used to repair the function of a defective mitral valve MV. That is, the devices are configured to help close the leaflets of the mitral valve to prevent blood from regurgitating from the left ventricle LV and back into the left atrium LA.

Referring to FIGS. 1-5, the mitral valve MV includes two leaflets, the anterior leaflet 302 and the posterior leaflet 304. The mitral valve MV also includes an annulus 306, which is a variably dense fibrous ring of tissues that encircles the leaflets 302, 304. Referring to FIG. 5, the mitral valve MV is anchored to the wall of the left ventricle LV by chordae tendineae 501. The chordae tendineae 501 are cord-like tendons that connect the papillary muscles 503 (i.e., the muscles located at the base of the chordae tendineae and within the walls of the left ventricle) to the leaflets 302, 304 of the mitral valve MV. The papillary muscles serve to limit the movements of the mitral valve MV and prevent the mitral valve from being reverted. The mitral valve MV opens and closes in response to pressure changes in the left atrium LA and the left ventricle LV. The papillary muscles do not open or close the mitral valve MV. Rather, the papillary muscles brace the mitral valve MV against the high pressure needed to circulate blood throughout the body. Together the papillary muscles and the chordae tendineae are known as the subvalvular apparatus, which functions to keep the mitral valve MV from prolapsing into the left atrium LA when the mitral valve closes.

Various disease processes can impair proper function of one or more of the native valves of the heart H. These disease processes include degenerative processes (e.g., Barlow’s Disease, fibroelastic deficiency), inflammatory processes (e.g., Rheumatic Heart Disease), and infectious processes (e.g., endocarditis). In addition, damage to the left ventricle LV or the right ventricle RV from prior heart attacks (i.e., myocardial infarction secondary to coronary artery disease) or other heart diseases (e.g., cardiomyopathy) can distort a native valve’s geometry, which can cause the native valve to dysfunction. However, the vast majority of patients undergoing valve surgery, such as surgery to the mitral valve MV, suffer from a degenerative disease that causes a malfunction in a leaflet (e.g., leaflets 302, 304) of a native valve (e.g., the mitral valve MV), which results in prolapse and regurgitation.

Generally, a native valve may malfunction in two different ways. One possible malfunction is valve stenosis, which

occurs when a native valve does not open completely and thereby causes an obstruction of blood flow. Typically, valve stenosis results from buildup of calcified material on the leaflets of a valve, which causes the leaflets to thicken and impairs the ability of the valve to fully open to permit forward blood flow.

Another possible malfunction is valve regurgitation, which occurs when the leaflets of the valve do not close completely thereby causing blood to leak back into the prior chamber (e.g., causing blood to leak from the left ventricle to the left atrium). There are three mechanisms by which a native valve becomes regurgitant or incompetent, which include Carpentier's type I, type II, and type III malfunctions. A Carpentier type I malfunction involves the dilation of the annulus such that normally functioning leaflets are distracted from each other and fail to form a tight seal (i.e., do not coapt properly). Included in a type I mechanism malfunction are perforations of the leaflets, as in endocarditis. A Carpentier's type II malfunction involves prolapse of one or more leaflets of a native valve above a plane of coaptation. A Carpentier's type III malfunction involves restriction of the motion of one or more leaflets of a native valve such that the leaflets are abnormally constrained below the plane of the annulus. Leaflet restriction can be caused by rheumatic disease (Ma) or dilation of a ventricle (IIIb).

Referring to FIG. 3, when a healthy mitral valve MV is in a closed position, the anterior leaflet 302 and the posterior leaflet 304 coapt, which prevents blood from leaking from the left ventricle LV to the left atrium LA. Referring to FIG. 4, regurgitation occurs when the anterior leaflet 302 and/or the posterior leaflet 304 of the mitral valve MV is displaced into the left atrium LA during systole. This failure to coapt causes a gap 408 between the anterior leaflet 302 and the posterior leaflet 304, which allows blood to flow back into the left atrium LA from the left ventricle LV during systole. As set forth above, there are several different ways that a leaflet (e.g. leaflets 302, 304 of mitral valve MV) may malfunction, which can thereby lead to regurgitation.

Although stenosis or regurgitation can affect any valve, stenosis is predominantly found to affect either the aortic valve AV or the pulmonary valve PV, and regurgitation is predominantly found to affect either the mitral valve MV or the tricuspid valve TV. Both valve stenosis and valve regurgitation increase the workload of the heart H and may lead to very serious conditions if left un-treated; such as endocarditis, congestive heart failure, permanent heart damage, cardiac arrest, and ultimately death. Because the left side of the heart (i.e., the left atrium LA, the left ventricle LV, the mitral valve MV, and the aortic valve AV) is primarily responsible for circulating the flow of blood throughout the body, malfunction of the mitral valve MV or the aortic valve AV is particularly problematic and often life threatening. Accordingly, because of the substantially higher pressures on the left side of the heart, dysfunction of the mitral valve MV or the aortic valve AV is much more problematic.

Malfunctioning native heart valves may either be repaired or replaced. Repair typically involves the preservation and correction of the patient's native valve. Replacement typically involves replacing the patient's native valve with a biological or mechanical substitute. Typically, the aortic valve AV and pulmonary valve PV are more prone to stenosis. Because stenotic damage sustained by the leaflets is irreversible, the most conventional treatments for a stenotic aortic valve or stenotic pulmonary valve are removal and replacement of the valve with a surgically implanted heart valve, or displacement of the valve with a transcatheter heart valve. The mitral valve MV and the

tricuspid valve TV are more prone to deformation of leaflets, which, as described above, prevents the mitral valve or tricuspid valve from closing properly and allows for regurgitation or back flow of blood from the ventricle into the atrium (e.g., a deformed mitral valve MV may allow for regurgitation or back flow from the left ventricle LV to the left atrium LA). The regurgitation or back flow of blood from the ventricle to the atrium results in valvular insufficiency. Deformations in the structure or shape of the mitral valve MV or the tricuspid valve TV are often repairable. In addition, regurgitation can occur due to the chordae tendineae 501 becoming dysfunctional (e.g., the chordae tendineae may stretch or rupture), which allows the anterior leaflet 302 and the posterior leaflet 304 to be reverted such that blood is regurgitated into the left atrium LA. The problems occurring due to dysfunctional chordae tendineae 501 can be repaired by repairing the chordae tendineae or the structure of the mitral valve (e.g., by securing the leaflets 302, 304 at the affected portion of the mitral valve).

The devices and procedures disclosed herein make reference to repairing the structure of a mitral valve. However, it should be understood that the devices and concepts provided herein can be used to repair any native valve, as well as any component of a native valve. Referring to FIG. 4A, any of the devices and concepts provided herein can be used to repair the tricuspid valve TV. For example, any of the devices and concepts provided herein can be used between any two of the anterior leaflet 4011, septal leaflet 4012, and posterior leaflet 4013 to prevent regurgitation of blood from the right ventricle into the right atrium. In addition, any of the devices and concepts provided herein can be used on all three of the leaflets 4011, 4012, 4013 together to prevent regurgitation of blood from the right ventricle to the right atrium. That is, the valve repair devices provided herein can be centrally located between the three leaflets 4011, 4012, 4013.

FIGS. 6-13B illustrate a valve repair system 600 for repairing a native valve of a patient. The valve repair system 600 includes a delivery device 601 and a valve repair device 602, in which delivery device is configured to deliver the valve repair device to the native valve of a patient, and in which the valve repair device is configured to attach to leaflets of a native valve to repair the native valve of the patient. The delivery device 601 can take any suitable form that is capable of delivering the valve repair device 602 to the native valve of a patient. In certain embodiments, the valve repair system 600 is configured to deliver the valve repair device 602 to a native valve of a patient during a non-open-heart procedure. Suitable delivery means for percutaneously delivering the valve repair system 600 in a minimal-invasive procedure, can be delivery sleeves or delivery catheters which may be inserted through small incisions in the skin of a patient and advanced to the implantation site, for example along an endovascular (e.g. transfemoral) path or a transapical path.

The valve repair device 602 includes a base assembly 604, a pair of paddles 606, and a pair of gripping members 608. In one exemplary embodiment, the paddles 606 can be integrally formed with the base assembly. For example, the paddles 606 can be formed as extensions of links of the base assembly. In the illustrated example, the base assembly 604 of the valve repair device 602 has a shaft 603, a coupler 605 configured to move along the shaft, and a lock 607 configured to lock the coupler in a stationary position on the shaft. The coupler 605 is mechanically connected to the paddles 606, such that movement of the coupler 605 along the shaft 603 causes the paddles to move between an open position

and a closed position. In this way, the coupler **605** serves as means for mechanically coupling the paddles **606** to the shaft **603** and, when moving along the shaft **603**, for causing the paddles **606** to move between their open and closed positions. In certain embodiments, the gripping members **608** are pivotally connected to the base assembly **604** (e.g., the gripping members **608** can be pivotally connected to the shaft **603**, or any other suitable member of the base assembly), such that the gripping members can be moved to adjust the width of the opening **614** between the paddles **606** and the gripping members **608**. The gripping member **608** can include a barbed portion **609** for attaching the gripping members to valve tissue when the valve repair device **602** is attached to the valve tissue. The gripping member **608** forms a means for gripping the valve tissue (in particular tissue of the valve leaflets) with a sticking means or portion such as the barbed portion **609**. When the paddles **606** are in the closed position, the paddles engage the gripping members **608**, such that, when valve tissue is attached to the barbed portion **609** of the gripping members, the paddles act as holding or securing means to hold the valve tissue at the gripping members and to secure the valve repair device **602** to the valve tissue. In some embodiments, the gripping members **608** are configured to engage the paddles **606** such that the barbed portion **609** engages the valve tissue member and the paddles **608** to secure the valve repair device **602** to the valve tissue member. For example, in certain situations, it may be advantageous to have the paddles **606** maintain an open position and have the gripping members **608** move outward toward the paddles **606** to engage a valve tissue member and the paddles **606**.

While the embodiment shown in FIGS. 6-13B illustrate a pair of paddles **606** and a pair of gripping members **608**, it should be understood that the valve repair device **602** can include any suitable number of paddles and gripping members. In certain embodiments, the valve repair system **600** includes a placement shaft **613** that is removably attached to the shaft **603** of the base assembly **604** of the valve repair device **602**. After the valve repair device **602** is secured to valve tissue, the placement shaft **613** is removed from the shaft **603** to remove the valve repair device **602** from the remainder of the valve repair system **600**, such that the valve repair device **602** can remain attached to the valve tissue, and the delivery device **601** can be removed from a patient's body.

The valve repair system **600** can also include a paddle control mechanism **610**, a gripper control mechanism **611**, and a lock control mechanism **612**. The paddle control mechanism **610** is mechanically attached to the coupler **605** to move the coupler along the shaft, which causes the paddles **606** to move between the open and closed positions. The paddle control mechanism **610** can take any suitable form, such as, for example, a shaft or rod. For example, the paddle control mechanism can comprise a hollow shaft, a catheter tube or a sleeve that fits over the placement shaft **613** and the shaft **603** and is connected to the coupler **605**. The gripper control mechanism **611** is configured to move the gripping members **608** such that the width of the opening **614** between the gripping members and the paddles **606** can be altered. The gripper control mechanism **611** can take any suitable form, such as, for example, a line, a suture or wire, a rod, a catheter, etc.

The lock control mechanism **612** is configured to lock and unlock the lock. The lock **607** serves as locking means for locking the coupler **605** in a stationary position with respect to the shaft **603** and can take a wide variety of different forms and the type of lock control mechanism **612** may be

dictated by the type of lock used. In one embodiment, the lock **607** takes the form of locks often used in caulk guns. That is, the lock **607** includes a pivotable plate having a hole, in which the shaft **603** of the valve repair device **602** is disposed within the hole of the pivotable plate. In this embodiment, when the pivotable plate is in the tilted position, the pivotable plate engages the shaft **603** to maintain a position on the shaft **603**, but, when the pivotable plate is in a substantially non-tilted position, the pivotable plate can be moved along the shaft (which allows the coupler **605** to move along the shaft **603**). In other words, the coupler **605** is prevented from moving in the direction Y (as shown in FIG. 10A) along the shaft **603** when pivotable plate of the lock **607** is in a tilted (or locked) position, and the coupler is allowed to move in the direction Y along the shaft **603** when the pivotable plate is in a substantially non-tilted (or unlocked) position. In embodiments in which the lock **607** includes a pivotable plate, the lock control mechanism **612** is configured to engage the pivotable plate to move the plate between the tilted and substantially non-tilted positions. The lock control mechanism **612** can be, for example, a rod, a suture, a wire, or any other member that is capable of moving a pivotable plate of the lock **607** between a tilted and substantially non-tilted position. In certain embodiments, the pivotable plate of the lock **607** is biased in the tilted (or locked) position, and the lock control mechanism **612** is used to move the plate from the tilted position to the substantially non-tilted (or unlocked) position. In other embodiments, the pivotable plate of the lock **607** is biased in the substantially non-tilted (or unlocked) position, and the lock control mechanism **612** is used to move the plate from the substantially non-tilted position to the tilted (or locked) position.

FIGS. 10A-10B illustrate the valve repair device **602** moving from an open position (as shown in FIG. 10A) to a closed position (as shown in FIG. 10B). The base assembly **604** includes a first link **1021** extending from point A to point B, a second link **1022** extending from point A to point C, a third link **1023** extending from point B to point D, a fourth link **1024** extending from point C to point E, and a fifth link **1025** extending from point D to point E. The coupler **605** is movably attached to the shaft **603**, and the shaft **603** is fixed to the fifth link **1025**. The first link **1021** and the second link **1022** are pivotally attached to the coupler **605** at point A, such that movement of the coupler **605** along the shaft **603** moves the location of point A and, consequently, moves the first link **1021** and the second link **1022**. The first link **1021** and the third link **1023** are pivotally attached to each other at point B, and the second link **1022** and the fourth link **1024** are pivotally attached to each other at point C. One paddle **606a** is attached to first link **1021** such that movement of first link **1021** causes the paddle **606a** to move, and the other paddle **606b** is attached to the second link **1022** such that movement of the second link **1022** causes the paddle **606b** to move. Alternatively, the paddles **606a**, **606b** can be connected to links **1023**, **1024** or be extensions of links **1023**, **1024**.

In order to move the valve repair device from the open position (as shown in FIG. 10A) to the closed position (as shown in FIG. 10B), the coupler **605** is moved along the shaft **603** in the direction Y, which moves the pivot point A for the first links **1021** and the second link **1022** to a new position. Movement of the coupler **605** (and pivot point A) in the direction Y causes a portion of the first link **1021** near point A to move in the direction H, and the portion of the first link **1021** near point B to move in the direction J. The paddle **606a** is attached to the first link **1021** such that movement of

the coupler 605 in the direction Y causes the paddle 606a to move in the direction Z. In addition, the third link 1023 is pivotally attached to the first link 1021 at point B such that movement of the coupler 605 in the direction Y causes the third link 1023 to move in the direction K. Similarly, movement of the coupler 605 (and pivot point A) in the direction Y causes a portion of the second link 1022 near point A to move in the direction L, and the portion of the second link 1022 near point C to move in the direction M. The paddle 606b is attached to the second link 1022 such that movement of the coupler 605 in the direction Y causes the paddle 606b to move in the direction V. In addition, the fourth link 1024 is pivotally attached to the second link 1022 at point C such that movement of the coupler 605 in the direction Y causes the fourth link 1024 to move in the direction N. FIG. 10B illustrates the final position of the valve repair device 602 after the coupler 605 is moved as shown in FIG. 10A.

Referring to FIG. 7, the valve repair device 602 is shown in the open position (similar to the position shown in FIG. 10A), and the gripper control mechanism 611 is shown moving the gripping members 608 to provide a wider gap at the opening 614 between the gripping members and the paddles 606. In the illustrated embodiment, the gripper control mechanism 611 includes a line, such as a suture, a wire, etc. that is threaded through an opening in an end of the gripper members 608. Both ends of the line extending through the delivery opening 716 of the delivery device 601. When the line is pulled through the delivery opening 716 in the direction Y, the gripping members 608 move inward in the direction X, which causes the opening 614 between the gripping members and the paddles 606 to become wider.

Referring to FIG. 8, the valve repair device 602 is shown such that valve tissue 820 is disposed in the opening 614 between the gripping members 608 and the paddles 606. Referring to FIG. 9, after the valve tissue 820 is disposed between the gripping members 608 and the paddles 606, the gripper control mechanism 611 is used to lessen the width of the opening 614 between the gripping members and the paddles. That is, in the illustrated embodiment, the line of the gripper control mechanism 611 is released from or pushed out of the opening 716 of the delivery member in the direction H, which allows the gripping members 608 to move in the direction D to lessen the width of the opening 614. While the gripper control mechanism 611 is shown moving the gripping members 608 to increase the width of the opening 614 between the gripping members and the paddles 606 (FIG. 8), it should be understood that the gripping members may not need to be moved in order to position valve tissue in the opening 614. In certain circumstances, however, the opening 614 between the paddles 606 and the gripping members 608 may need to be wider in order to receive the valve tissue.

Referring to FIG. 11, the valve repair device 602 is in the closed position and secured to valve tissue 820. The valve repair device 602 is secured to the valve tissue 820 by the paddles 606a, 606b and the gripping members 608a, 608b. In particular, the valve tissue 820 is attached to the valve repair device 602 by the barbed portion 609 of the gripping members 608a, 608b, and the paddles 606a, 606b engage the gripping members 608 to secure the valve repair device 602 to the valve tissue 820. In order to move the valve repair device 602 from the open position to the closed position, the lock 607 is moved to an unlocked condition (as shown in FIG. 11) by the lock control mechanism 612. Once the lock 607 is in the unlocked condition, the coupler 605 can be moved along the shaft 603 by the paddle control mechanism

610. In the illustrated embodiment, the paddle control mechanism 610 moves the coupler 605 in a direction Y along the shaft, which causes one paddle 606a to move in a direction X and the other paddle 606b to move in a direction Z. The movement of the paddles 606a, 606b in the direction X and the direction Z, causes the paddles to engage the gripping members 608a, 608b and secure the valve repair device 602 to the valve tissue 820.

Referring to FIG. 12, after the paddles 606 are moved to the closed position to secure the valve repair device 602 to the valve tissue 820 (as shown in FIG. 11), the lock 607 is moved to the locked condition by the locking control mechanism 611 (FIG. 11) to maintain the valve repair device 602 in the closed position. After the valve repair device 602 is maintained in the locked condition by the lock 607, the valve repair device 602 is removed from the delivery device 601 by disconnecting the shaft 603 from the placement shaft 613 (FIG. 11). In addition, the valve repair device 602 is disengaged from the paddle control mechanism 610 (FIG. 11), the gripper control mechanism 611 (FIG. 11), and the lock control mechanism 612. Removal of the valve repair device 602 from the delivery device 601 allows the valve repair device to remain secured to valve tissue 820 while the delivery device 601 is removed from a patient.

Referring to FIGS. 13A-13B, the mitral valve 1300 of a patient is shown with a valve repair device 602 attached to the anterior leaflet 1301 and the posterior leaflet 1302 of the mitral valve. FIGS. 13A-13B are views from the atrial side of the mitral valve 1300 with portions of the valve repair device 602 and captured mitral valve leaflet tissue on the ventricular side of the mitral valve depicted in hidden lines. During the diastolic phase (as shown in FIG. 1), the blood that collects in the left atrium of the heart enters the mitral valve 1300 by expansion of the left ventricle of the heart. The anterior leaflet 1301 and the posterior leaflet 1302 open to allow blood to travel from the left atrium to the left ventricle. In the systolic phase (as shown in FIG. 2), the left ventricle contracts to force the blood through the aortic valve and the ascending aorta and into the body. During systole, the leaflets of the mitral valve MV close to prevent the blood from regurgitating back into the left atrium LA. As described above, regurgitation of blood from the left ventricle to the left atrium through the mitral valve occurs when the anterior leaflet 1301 and the posterior leaflet 1302 do not close entirely such that a gap exists between the anterior leaflet and the posterior leaflet. In order to repair a mitral valve 1300 to prevent regurgitation of blood through the mitral valve, the valve repair device 602 is connected to the anterior leaflet 1301 and the posterior leaflet 1302 to close the gap.

Referring to FIG. 13A, the mitral valve 1300 is shown from the left atrium of a patient's heart (e.g., from the view indicated by line A-A in FIG. 5). In the illustrated embodiment, the mitral valve 1300 is shown in an open position (i.e., the position the mitral valve takes during the diastolic phase). The valve repair device 602 is attached to the anterior leaflet 1301 and the posterior leaflet 1302 of the mitral valve 1300 in the left ventricle of the patient's heart, and is shown in dotted lines in FIGS. 13A-13B to indicate the location of the valve repair device with respect to the mitral valve. As shown in FIGS. 13A-13B, the valve repair device 602 engages the anterior leaflet 1301 and the posterior leaflet 1302 and causes the anterior leaflet and posterior leaflet to engage each other (i.e., the valve repair device closes a portion of the gap between the anterior leaflet and the posterior leaflet). The valve repair device 602 can be placed in a location in which a gap exists between the

anterior leaflet **1301** and the posterior leaflet **1302** when the mitral valve **1301** is in a closed position (i.e., the position of the mitral valve during the systolic phase), such that the valve repair device will prevent the gap from occurring. The illustrated embodiment shows the mitral valve **1300** and valve repair device **602** during the diastolic phase. That is, during the diastolic phase, the valve repair device **602** will cause a portion of the mitral valve to remain closed, but the portions of the mitral valve not engaged by the valve repair device will open such that gaps **1303** are created to allow blood to flow from the left atrium to the left ventricle.

Referring to FIG. **13B**, the valve repair device **602** is attached to both the anterior leaflet **1301** and the posterior leaflet **1302**. In particular, a portion **1301a** of the anterior leaflet **1301** is secured between a paddle **606a** and a gripping member **608a** of the valve repair device **602**, and a portion **1302b** of the posterior leaflet **1302** is secured between another paddle **606b** and another gripping member **608b** of the valve repair device. The valve repair device **602** is secured and locked to the mitral valve **1300**, for example, as shown in FIGS. **6-12**.

FIGS. **14A-14B** illustrate exemplary embodiments of a valve repair device **602** attached to the anterior leaflet **1301** and posterior leaflet **1302** of a mitral valve **1300**. The mitral valve **1300** is shown from the left atrium of a patient's heart (e.g., from the view indicated by line A-A in FIG. **5**). Still referring to FIGS. **14A-14B**, the valve repair device **602** includes a first paddle **606a**, a second paddle **606b**, a first gripping member **608a**, and a second gripping member **608b**. A portion **1301a** of the anterior leaflet **1301** is secured between the first paddle **606a** and the first gripping member **608a** of the valve repair device **602**, and a portion **1302b** of the posterior leaflet **1302** is secured between the second paddle **606b** and the second gripping member **608b** of the valve repair device. The first and second paddles **606a**, **606b** include a main portion **1404** and side portions **1405**. Referring to FIG. **14A**, the valve repair device **602** is configured such that the portions **1301a**, **1302b** of the mitral valve **1300** conform to or generally conform to the shape of the paddles **606a**, **606b**. That is, the valve leaflet portions **1301a**, **1302b** are pressed into the paddles by the gripping members **608a**, **608b**, such that the valve leaflet portions **1301a**, **1301b** are disposed along a main portion **1404** and side portions **1405** of the paddles **606a**, **606b**. In the embodiment of the valve repair device **602** shown in FIG. **14A**, the paddles **606a**, **606b** can be made of a rigid material, for example, steel, molded plastic, etc.

In the exemplary embodiment illustrated by FIG. **14B**, the paddles **606a**, **606b** of the valve repair device **602** are configured to flex. Because of this flex, when the valve repair device is attached to the mitral valve **1300**, the mitral valve tissue portions **1301a**, **1302b** move the side portions **1405** of the paddles as indicated by arrows **1450**, which reduces the stress placed on the mitral valve by the valve repair device as compared to the embodiment illustrated by FIG. **14A**. That is, the flexing results in a more gradual contouring of the mitral valve tissue by the paddles, while still securely attaching the valve repair device **602** to the mitral valve tissue. In the embodiment of the valve repair device **602** shown in FIG. **14B**, the paddles **606a**, **606b** can be made of a wide variety of different flexible materials or rigid materials that are cut or otherwise processed to provide flexibility.

FIGS. **15A-15B** illustrate another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device **602**. Referring to FIG. **15A**, the valve repair device **602** is in the open position and about to engage valve tissue **820** (e.g., the leaflets of a mitral valve).

Referring to FIG. **15B**, the valve repair device **602** is in the closed position and secured to the valve tissue **820**. The valve repair device **602** can take any suitable form, such as, for example, any form described in the present application. The valve repair device **602** can be moved between the open and closed position, and be attached to the valve tissue **820**, by a valve repair system, such as, for example, any valve repair system described in the present application. In the illustrated embodiment, the valve repair device **602** includes paddles **606** and gripping members **608**. The gripping members **608** include a barbed portion **609** for attaching the gripping members to valve tissue **820**. Referring to FIG. **15A**, when the valve repair device **602** is in the open position, the paddles **606** maintain an original form. Referring to FIG. **15B**, upon engagement with the valve tissue **820**, the paddles **606** flex along their length **L**. That is, a portion of the paddles **606** flex in an inward direction **X**, and another portion of the paddles extend in an outward direction **Z**. This flexing of the paddles **606** allows the paddles to conform to the shape of the valve tissue, which places less stress on the valve tissue.

Referring to FIGS. **16A-16F**, another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device **602** includes paddles **606** having a wire loop **1601**. The wire loop **1601** can be made of, for example, any suitable metal material, laser cut loops from a sheet of nitinol, a tube of nitinol, or any other suitable material. In some embodiments, the wire loop **1601** can have varying dimensions throughout the length of the wire loop **1601** to optimize the paddle pinch force and the paddle crimp force on a valve tissue when paddle engages the valve tissue. For example, certain sections of the wire loop **1601** can be thinner than other sections of the wire loop **1601**. In certain embodiments, the wire loop **1601** of the paddles **606** is compressible, which allows the paddles **606** to be disposed in a delivery device **601** (e.g., a catheter) that has a small diameter (as shown in FIG. **16E**) for delivery of the valve repair device **602** to a native valve of a patient, and also allows the paddles **606** to expand (as shown in FIGS. **16A-16D**) upon exiting the delivery device **601** such that the paddles **606** have a larger surface area for engaging the native valve of the patient. The valve repair device **602** can take any suitable form, such as, for example, any form described in the present application. The valve repair device **602** can be moved between the open and closed position, and be attached to a native valve, by a valve repair system, such as, for example, any valve repair system described in the present application.

FIGS. **16A-16B** illustrate the valve repair device **602** in the open position, and FIGS. **16C-16D** illustrate the valve repair device in the closed position. Referring to FIGS. **16A-16B**, when the valve repair device **602** is in the expanded and open position, the paddles **606** extend outward to create wide opening **614** between the paddles **606** and gripping members **608** of the valve repair device **602**. Referring to FIGS. **16C-16D**, when the valve repair device **602** is in the expanded and closed position, the paddles **606** engage the gripping members **608** such that valve tissue can be secured between the paddles and the gripping members. The paddles **606** include a curved surface **1603**, which is configured to place less stress on valve tissue when the valve repair device **602** is attached to the valve tissue. When the paddles **606** are in the expanded condition, the paddles have a width **W**. The width **W** can be, for example, between about 4 mm and about 21 mm, such as, between about 5 mm and about 20 mm, such as between about 7.5 mm and about 17.5 mm, such as between about 10 mm and about 15 mm. In certain embodiments, the width **W** can be, for example, 5

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mm or more, such as about 7.5 mm or more, such as about 10 mm or more, such as about 15 mm or more, such as about 20 mm or more. In other embodiments, the width W can be less than 5 mm. In certain embodiments, the paddles 606 include a material 1605 disposed over the wire loop 1601 for creating a contact area for the paddles to engage valve tissue. The material 1605 can be any suitable material, such as, for example, a woven material, an electrospun material, or any other material that is capable of promoting tissue ingrowth and protecting liners of the delivery device 601 (FIG. 6) during tracking. In certain embodiments, the material 1605 can be a blood-impermeable cloth, such as a PET cloth or biocompatible covering material such as a fabric that is treated with a coating that is impermeable to blood, polyester, or a processed biological material, such as pericardium.

Referring to FIG. 16E, the paddles 606 are in a compressed condition when the paddles are disposed in a delivery device 601. When the paddles 606 are in the compressed condition, the paddles have a width H. The width H can be, for example between about 4 mm and about 7 mm, such as, between about 5 mm and about 6 mm. In alternative embodiments, the width H can be less than 4 mm or more than 7 mm. In certain embodiments, the width H of the compressed paddles 606 is substantially equal to a width D of the delivery opening 716 of the delivery device 601. The ratio between the width W of the paddles in the expanded condition and the width H of the paddles in the compressed condition can be, for example, about 4 to 1 or less, such as about 3 to 1 or less, such as about 2 to 1 or less, such as about 1.5 to 1, such as about 1.25 to 1, such as about 1 to 1. In alternative embodiments, the ratio between the width W and the width H can be more than 4 to 1. Referring to FIG. 16F, a paddle 606 is moved from the expanded condition to the compressed condition by compressing the paddle in the direction Y and extending a length of the paddle in the direction X.

FIGS. 16G-16H illustrate another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device 602 in the open position, in which the valve repair device includes paddles 606 having a wire loop 1601. In the illustrated embodiment, the paddles 606 are shown having a wire loop 1601 that includes three lobes 1611. Referring to FIGS. 16I-16J, another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device 602 includes paddles 606 having a wire loop 1601 with two lobes 1611. While the embodiments shown in FIGS. 16G-16H and 16I-16J show the wire loop 1601 of the paddles 606 having three lobes and two lobes, respectively, it should be understood that the valve repair device 602 can include paddles 606 with a wire loop 1601 having any suitable number of lobes 1611, such as, for example, two or more lobes, three or more lobes, four or more lobes, five or more lobes, etc. A paddle 606 having a wire loop 1601 having lobes is advantageous because a paddle having lobes can more easily allow chordae tendineae to assume their natural positions than a single wire loop having no lobes. That is, the chordae tendineae can move into spaces between the multiple of loops.

The embodiments of the valve repair devices 602 shown in FIGS. 16G-16H and 16I-16J can include any of the features described above with reference to FIGS. 16A-16F. For example, the embodiments of the valve repair devices 602 shown in FIGS. 16G-16H and 16I-16J can include a width W, in which the width W can be, for example, between about 4 mm and about 21 mm, such as, between about 5 mm and about 20 mm, such as between about 7.5 mm and about 17.5 mm, such as between about 10 mm and about 15 mm. In certain embodiments, the width W can be, for example, 5

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mm or more, such as about 7.5 mm or more, such as about 10 mm or more, such as about 15 mm or more, such as about 20 mm or more. In other embodiments, the width W can be less than 5 mm. The embodiments for the paddles 606 shown in FIGS. 16G-16H and 16I-16J can also include a material disposed over the wire loop 1601 for creating a contact area for the paddles to engage valve tissue. The material can be any suitable material, such as, for example, a woven material, an electrospun material, or any other suitable material that is capable of promoting tissue ingrowth and protecting liners of the delivery device 601 (FIG. 6) during tracking. In certain embodiments, the material 1605 can be a blood-impermeable cloth, such as a PET cloth or biocompatible covering material such as a fabric that is treated with a coating that is impermeable to blood, polyester, or a processed biological material, such as pericardium. The embodiments for the paddles 606 shown in FIGS. 16G-16H and 16I-16J can also be compressed when disposed in a delivery device 601 (e.g., just as shown in FIG. 16E with respect to the embodiment of the paddles 606 shown in FIGS. 16A-16B). The ratio between the width W of the paddles 606 in the expanded condition and the width of the paddles in the compressed condition can be, for example, about 4 to 1 or less, such as about 3 to 1 or less, such as about 2 to 1 or less, such as about 1.5 to 1, such as about 1.25 to 1, such as about 1 to 1. In alternative embodiments, the ratio between the width W and the width H can be more than 4 to 1.

Referring to FIGS. 17A-17F, another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device 602 includes paddles 606 having a horseshoe shape 1701. In certain embodiments, the horseshoe shape 1701 of the paddles 606 is compressible, which allows the paddles 606 to be disposed in a delivery device 601 (e.g., a catheter) that has a small diameter (as shown in FIG. 17F) for delivery of the valve repair device 602 to a native valve of a patient, and also allows the paddles 606 to expand (as shown in FIGS. 17A-17D) upon exiting the delivery device 601 such that the paddles 606 have a larger surface area for engaging the native valve of the patient. The valve repair device 602 can take any suitable form, such as, for example, any form described in the present application. The valve repair device 602 can be moved between the open and closed position, and be attached to a native valve, by a valve repair system, such as, for example, any valve repair system described in the present application.

FIGS. 17A-17C illustrate the valve repair device 602 in the open position. Referring to FIGS. 17A-17B, when the valve repair device 602 is in the expanded and open position, the paddles 606 extend outward to create wide opening 614 between the paddles 606 and gripping members 608 of the valve repair device 602. In the illustrated embodiment, the horseshoe shape 1701 of the paddles 606 includes side members 1707 that extend from a base 1706 of the paddle 606, and a center member 1709 that extends from the base 1706 and connects to a base assembly 604 of the valve repair device 602, in which the side members 1707 form a horseshoe shape as shown in FIG. 17C, for example. In certain embodiments, the paddles 606 include a material 1705 disposed over the horseshoe shape 1701 for creating a contact area for the paddles to engage valve tissue. The material 1705 can be any suitable material, such as, for example, a woven material, an electrospun material, or any other material that is capable of promoting tissue ingrowth and protecting liners of the delivery device 601 (FIG. 6) during tracking. In certain embodiments, the material 1605 can be a blood-impermeable cloth, such as a PET cloth or

biocompatible covering material such as a fabric that is treated with a coating that is impermeable to blood, polyester, or a processed biological material, such as pericardium.

In various embodiments, the paddles **606** are configured to flex to place less stress on valve tissue when the valve repair device **602** is attached to the valve tissue. When the paddles **606** are in the expanded condition, the paddles have a width W . The width W can be, for example, between about 4 mm and about 21 mm, such as, between about 5 mm and about 20 mm, such as between about 7.5 mm and about 17.5 mm, such as between about 10 mm and about 15 mm. In certain embodiments, the width W can be, for example, 5 mm or more, such as about 7.5 mm or more, such as about 10 mm or more, such as about 15 mm or more, such as about 20 mm or more. In other embodiments, the width W can be less than 5 mm. Referring to FIG. 17D, in certain embodiments, the thickness T of the paddle is, for example, between about 0.3 mm and about 0.46 mm, such as between about 0.32 mm and about 0.44 mm, such as between about 0.34 mm and about 0.42 mm, such as between about 0.36 mm and about 0.40 mm, such as about 0.38 mm. In alternative embodiments, the thickness T of the paddle can be less than 0.3 mm or more than 0.46 mm.

Referring to FIG. 17E, the paddles **606** are in a compressed condition when the paddles are disposed in a delivery device **601**. When the paddles **606** are in the compressed condition, the paddles have a width H . The width H can be, for example between about 4 mm and about 7 mm, such as, between about 5 mm and about 6 mm. In alternative embodiments, the width H can be less than 4 mm or more than 7 mm. In certain embodiments, the width H of the compressed paddles **606** is equal to a width D of the delivery opening **716** of the delivery device **601**. The ratio between the width W of the paddles in the expanded condition and the width H of the paddles in the compressed condition can be, for example, about 4 to 1 or less, such as about 3 to 1 or less, such as about 2 to 1 or less, such as about 1.5 to 1, such as about 1.25 to 1, such as about 1 to 1. In alternative embodiments, the ratio between the width W and the width H can be more than 4 to 1. Referring to FIG. 17F, a paddle **606** is moved from the expanded condition to the compressed condition by compressing the paddle in the direction Y and extending a length of the paddle in the direction X . In the illustrated embodiment, the length of the side members **1707** of the paddle **606** are extended when the paddle is in the compressed condition, but the length of the center member **1709** maintains the same length.

Referring to FIGS. 18A-18D, another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device **602** includes paddles **606** having another horseshoe shape **1801**. In certain embodiments, the horseshoe shape **1801** of the paddles **606** is compressible, which allows the paddles **606** to be disposed in a delivery device **601** (e.g., a catheter) that has a small diameter (as shown in FIG. 18C) for delivery of the valve repair device **602** to a native valve of a patient, and also allows the paddles **606** to expand (as shown in FIGS. 18A-18B) upon exiting the delivery device **601** such that the paddles **606** have a larger surface area for engaging the native valve of the patient. The valve repair device **602** can take any suitable form, such as, for example, any form described in the present application. The valve repair device **602** can be moved between the open and closed position, and be attached to a native valve, by a valve repair system, such as, for example, any valve repair system described in the present application.

FIGS. 18A-18B illustrate the valve repair device **602** in the open position. When the valve repair device **602** is in the open position, the paddles **606** extend outward to create wide opening **614** between the paddles **606** and gripping members **608** of the valve repair device **602**. In the illustrated embodiment, the horseshoe shape **1801** of the paddles **606** includes side members **1807** that extend from a base **1806** of the paddle **606**, and the base **1806** is attached to the base assembly **604** of the valve repair device **602**. In certain embodiments, the paddles **606** include a material **1805** disposed over the horseshoe shape **1801** for creating a contact area for the paddles to engage valve tissue. The material **1805** can be any suitable material, such as, for example, a woven material, an electrospun material, or any other material that is capable of promoting tissue ingrowth and protecting liners of the delivery device **601** (FIG. 6) during tracking. In certain embodiments, the material **1605** can be a blood-impermeable cloth, such as a PET cloth or biocompatible covering material such as a fabric that is treated with a coating that is impermeable to blood, polyester, or a processed biological material, such as pericardium.

In various embodiments, the paddles **606** are configured to flex to place less stress on valve tissue when the valve repair device **602** is attached to the valve tissue. When the paddles **606** are in the expanded condition, the paddles have a width W . The width W can be, for example, between about 4 mm and about 21 mm, such as, between about 5 mm and about 20 mm, such as between about 7.5 mm and about 17.5 mm, such as between about 10 mm and about 15 mm. In certain embodiments, the width W can be, for example, 5 mm or more, such as about 7.5 mm or more, such as about 10 mm or more, such as about 15 mm or more, such as about 20 mm or more. In other embodiments, the width W can be less than 5 mm.

Referring to FIG. 18C, the paddles **606** are in a compressed condition when the paddles are disposed in a delivery device **601**. When the paddles **606** are in the compressed condition, the paddles have a width H . The width H can be, for example between about 4 mm and about 7 mm, such as, between about 5 mm and about 6 mm. In alternative embodiments, the width H can be less than 4 mm or more than 7 mm. In certain embodiments, the width H of the compressed paddles **606** is equal to a width D of the delivery opening **716** of the delivery device **601**. The ratio between the width W of the paddles in the expanded condition and the width H of the paddles in the compressed condition can be, for example, about 4 to 1 or less, such as about 3 to 1 or less, such as about 2 to 1 or less, such as about 1.5 to 1, such as about 1.25 to 1, such as about 1 to 1. In alternative embodiments, the ratio between the width W and the width H can be more than 4 to 1. Referring to FIG. 18D, a paddle **606** is moved from the expanded condition to the compressed condition by compressing the paddle in the direction Y and extending a length of the paddle in the direction X . In the illustrated embodiment, the length of the side members **1807** of the paddle **606** are extended when the paddle is in the compressed condition. Referring to FIG. 18C, in certain embodiments, when the paddles **606** are disposed in the delivery device **601** and in the compressed condition, the side members **1807** of the paddles cross each other.

Referring to FIGS. 19A-19D, another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device **602** includes paddles **606** having a mesh structure **1901**. In certain embodiments, the mesh structure **1901** of the paddles **606** is compressible, which allows the paddles **606** to be disposed in a delivery device **601** (e.g., a catheter) that has a small diameter (as

shown in FIG. 19C) for delivery of the valve repair device 602 to a native valve of a patient, and also allows the paddles 606 to expand (as shown in FIGS. 19A-19B) upon exiting the delivery device 601 such that the paddles 606 have a larger surface area for engaging the native valve of the patient. The valve repair device 602 can take any suitable form, such as, for example, any form described in the present application. The valve repair device 602 can be moved between the open and closed position, and be attached to a native valve, by a valve repair system, such as, for example, any valve repair system described in the present application.

FIGS. 19A-19B illustrate the valve repair device 602 in the open position. When the valve repair device 602 is in the expanded and open position, the paddles 606 extend outward to create wide opening 614 between the paddles 606 and gripping members 608 of the valve repair device 602. In certain embodiments, the paddles 606 include a material disposed over the mesh structure 1901, such as, for example, a woven material, an electrospun material, or any other material that is capable of promoting tissue ingrowth and protecting liners of the delivery device 601 (FIG. 6) during tracking. In certain embodiments, the material 1605 can be a blood-impermeable cloth, such as a PET cloth or biocompatible covering material such as a fabric that is treated with a coating that is impermeable to blood, polyester, or a processed biological material, such as pericardium.

In various embodiments, the paddles 606 are configured to flex to place less stress on valve tissue when the valve repair device 602 is attached to the valve tissue. When the paddles 606 are in the expanded condition, the paddles have a width W. The width W can be, for example, between about 4 mm and about 21 mm, such as, between about 5 mm and about 20 mm, such as between about 7.5 mm and about 17.5 mm, such as between about 10 mm and about 15 mm. In certain embodiments, the width W can be, for example, 5 mm or more, such as about 7.5 mm or more, such as about 10 mm or more, such as about 15 mm or more, such as about 20 mm or more. In other embodiments, the width W can be less than 5 mm.

Referring to FIG. 19C, the paddles 606 are in a compressed condition when the paddles are disposed in a delivery device 601. When the paddles 606 are in the compressed condition, the paddles have a width H. The width H can be, for example between about 4 mm and about 7 mm, such as, between about 5 mm and about 6 mm. In alternative embodiments, the width H can be less than 4 mm or more than 7 mm. In certain embodiments, the width H of the compressed paddles 606 is equal to a width D of the delivery opening 716 of the delivery device 601. The ratio between the width W of the paddles in the expanded condition and the width H of the paddles in the compressed condition can be, for example, about 4 to 1 or less, such as about 3 to 1 or less, such as about 2 to 1 or less, such as about 1.5 to 1, such as about 1.25 to 1, such as about 1 to 1. In alternative embodiments, the ratio between the width W and the width H can be more than 4 to 1. Referring to FIG. 19D, a paddle 606 is moved from the expanded condition to the compressed condition by compressing the paddle in the direction Y and extending a length of the paddle in the direction X.

Referring to FIGS. 20A-20B, another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device includes paddles 606 that are compressible, which allows the paddles 606 to be disposed in a delivery device 601 (e.g., a catheter) that has a small diameter (as shown in FIG. 20A) for delivery of the valve repair device to a native valve of a patient, and also allows the paddles 606 to expand (as shown in FIG. 20B) upon

exiting the delivery device 601 such that the paddles 606 have a larger surface area for engaging the native valve of the patient. The paddles 606 can be included on a valve repair device 602 that takes any suitable form, such as, for example, any form described in the present application. The valve repair device (and paddles 606) can be attached to a native valve by a valve repair system, such as, for example, any valve repair system described in the present application.

FIG. 20A illustrates the paddle 606 in a compressed condition inside a delivery device 601. The paddle includes an opening 2001 that allows a portion of the paddle to expand upon being deployed from the delivery device 601. In the compressed condition, the paddle 606, for example, can have a width H between about 4 mm and about 7 mm, such as, between about 5 mm and about 6 mm. In alternative embodiments, the width H can be less than 4 mm or more than 7 mm. In certain embodiments, the width H of the compressed paddles 606 is equal to a width D of the delivery opening 716 of the delivery device 601. FIG. 20B illustrates the paddle 606 in an expanded condition. In the expanded condition, the paddle 606, for example, can have a width W between about 4 mm and about 21 mm, such as, between about 5 mm and about 20 mm, such as between about 7.5 mm and about 17.5 mm, such as between about 10 mm and about 15 mm. In certain embodiments, the width W can be, for example, 5 mm or more, such as about 7.5 mm or more, such as about 10 mm or more, such as about 15 mm or more, such as about 20 mm or more. In other embodiments, the width W can be less than 5 mm. The ratio between the width W of the paddles in the expanded condition and the width H of the paddles in the compressed condition can be, for example, about 4 to 1 or less, such as about 3 to 1 or less, such as about 2 to 1 or less, such as about 1.5 to 1, such as about 1.25 to 1, such as about 1 to 1. In alternative embodiments, the ratio between the width W and the width H can be more than 4 to 1. Referring to FIG. 20B, a paddle 606 is moved from the expanded condition to the compressed condition by compressing the paddle in the direction Y. In various embodiments, the paddles 606 are configured to flex to place less stress on valve tissue when the valve repair device 602 is attached to the valve tissue. In certain embodiments, the paddles 606 include a material disposed over the paddle 606, such as, for example, any material that is capable of promoting tissue ingrowth and protecting liners of the delivery device 601 (FIG. 6) during tracking. In certain embodiments, the material can be a blood-impermeable cloth, such as a PET cloth or biocompatible covering material such as a fabric that is treated with a coating that is impermeable to blood, polyester, or a processed biological material, such as pericardium.

FIGS. 21A-21B illustrate another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair system 600, in which the valve repair system 600 includes a valve repair device 602 having extendable paddles. The valve repair system 600 can take any suitable form, such as, for example, any form described in the present application. In the illustrated embodiment, the valve repair device 602 includes paddles 606 that are telescoping such that a length L of the paddles can be altered. That is, the paddles 606 include a main portion 2110 and an extendable portion 2112. The extendable portion 2112 is able to be housed within the main portion 2110 to create paddles having a shorter length L (as shown in FIG. 21A), and the extendable portion 2112 is able to be extended outside of the main portion to create paddles having a longer length L (as shown in FIG. 21B). The ratio between the shorter length L (as shown in FIG. 21A) and the longer length L (as shown in FIG. 21B) can be, for example, 1.25

to 1 or more, such as 1.5 to 1 or more, such as 2 to 1 or more, such as 2 to 1 or more, such as 4 to 1 or more, such as 5 to 1 or more.

In one embodiment, the main portion **2110** is a hollow conduit having an opening, and the extendable portion **2112** is a rod or conduit configured to be housed in the opening of the hollow member. In certain embodiments, the extendable portion **2112** is spring loaded, such that the extendable portion **2112** is biased toward the extended position, and a latch member is disposed in a locked position to maintain the extendable portion **2112** housed within the main portion **2110** in the non-extended position. Movement of the latch member from the locked position to an unlocked position causes the spring-loaded extendable portion **2112** to move outside the main portion **2110** and into the extended position. In addition, the extendable portion **2112** can be moved back within the main portion **2110** and the latch member can be moved from the unlocked position to the locked position to move the paddles from the extended position to the retracted position. The latch member can be moved between the locked and unlocked position by any suitable means, such as, for example, a rod that engages the latch member to move the latch member between the locked and unlocked positions. In an alternative embodiment, a suture or wire extends through the main portion **2110** and engages the extendable portion **2112** to maintain the extendable portion **2112** in the non-extended position, and removal of the suture or wire allows the spring-loaded extendable portion to move outside the main portion **2110** and into the extended position.

Referring to FIG. **21A**, the valve repair device **602** is shown with the paddles **606** in a non-extended position, and the valve repair device is positioned to engage valve tissue **820**. Referring to FIG. **21B**, after the valve repair device **602** is placed in position to engage the valve tissue **820**, the extendable portions **2112** of the paddles **606** are extended such that the paddles have a larger surface area for engaging the valve tissue. After the paddles **606** are extended to a desired length *L*, the valve repair device **602** is closed to secure the valve repair device to the valve tissue **820**, and the valve repair device is removed from the valve repair system **600**. In certain embodiments, the valve repair device **602** is configured such that the extendable portions **2112** of the paddles can be extended or retracted after the valve repair device is secured to the valve tissue **820**, such that the tension on the valve tissue can be increased or decreased depending on the patient and the procedural circumstances. For example, in embodiments in which the valve tissue **820** is a patient's mitral valve, a valve with excess leaflet material or chordal damage may need more tension to sufficiently seal the mitral valve, or a valve with short non-coapting leaflets may need less tension for a sufficiently seal the mitral valve. The valve repair device can be moved from the open position to a closed position and removed from the valve repair system **600** in any suitable manner, such as, for example, any manner described in the present application.

Referring to FIGS. **22-26**, in certain embodiments, the gripper control mechanism **611** is configured to control each of the gripping members **608** independent of each other. Independent control for each of the gripping members **608** is advantageous because the openings **614** between the paddles **606** and the gripping members can be adjusted independently as the valve repair device **602** is being attached to valve tissue (e.g., a mitral valve of a patient). In addition, independent gripper control will also be advantageous in situations in which one gripping member **608** and

one paddle **606** sufficiently secure the valve repair device **602** to a first portion of valve tissue, but the other gripping member and the other paddle fail to connect the valve repair device to a second portion of valve tissue. In this situation, the gripper control mechanism **611** can be used to control only the gripping member **608** that is not connected to the valve tissue to create an opening **614** for receiving the second portion of the valve tissue, and, after the second portion of the valve tissue is disposed in the opening, the unattached gripping member and the unattached paddle can be closed to secure the valve repair device **602** to the second portion of the valve tissue.

Still referring to FIGS. **22-26**, an exemplary embodiment of a valve repair system **600** includes a delivery device **601** and a valve repair device **602**, in which delivery device is configured to deliver the valve repair device to the native valve of a patient, and in which the valve repair device is configured to attach to leaflets of a native valve to repair the native valve of the patient. The delivery device **601** can take any suitable form that is capable of delivering the valve repair device **602** to the native valve of a patient, such as, for example, any form described in the present application. The valve repair device **602** is similar to the previously described valve repair device and includes a base assembly **604**, a pair of paddles **606**, and a pair of gripping members **608**. The base assembly **604** of the valve repair device **602** has a shaft **603**, a coupler **605** configured to move along the shaft, and a lock **607** configured to lock the coupler in a stationary position on the shaft. The valve repair device **602** can take any suitable form, such as, for example, any form described in the present application. The valve repair system **600** can also include a paddle control mechanism **610**, a gripper control mechanism **611**, and a lock control mechanism **612**. The paddle control mechanism **610** is mechanically attached to the coupler **605** to move the coupler along the shaft **603**, which causes the paddles **606** to move between the open and closed positions. The paddle control mechanism **610** can take any suitable form, such as, for example, any form described in the present application. The lock control mechanism **612** is configured to move the coupler **605** between the locked and unlocked conditions. The lock control mechanism **612** can take any suitable form, such as, for example, any form described in the present application.

Referring to FIG. **22**, an exemplary embodiment of a gripper control mechanism **611** includes a first gripper control member **2202** and a second gripper control member **2204**. The first gripper control member **2202** is configured to move the gripping member **608a** in the direction *X*, and the second gripper control member **2204** is configured to move the gripping member **608b** in the direction *Z*. Movement of the gripping member **608a** in the direction *X* will adjust the width *W* of the opening **614a** between the gripping member **608a** and the paddle **606a**, and movement of the gripping member **608b** in the direction *Z* will adjust the width *H* of the opening between the gripping member **608b** and the paddle **606b**. The gripper control members **2202**, **2204** can take any suitable form that is capable of independently moving the gripping members **608a**, **608b**. In the illustrated embodiment, the gripper control members **2202**, **2204** are lines, such as sutures, wires, etc. that are removably attached to each of the gripper members **608a**, **608b**, respectively, with both ends of the line extending through the delivery opening **716** of the delivery device **601**. The gripper control members **2202**, **2204** can be independently pulled into and cast from the catheter to independently control the positions of the gripping members **608a**, **608b**.

Referring to FIGS. 22A-22D, another exemplary embodiment of valve repair system 600 is shown with another embodiment of a gripper control mechanism 611 used to control the gripping members 608a-d of another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device 602. For illustrative purposes, the paddles 606 of the valve repair device 602 are not shown on in FIGS. 22A-22D, but it should be noted that the valve repair device 602 also includes paddles 606 that interact with the gripping members 608a-d to secure the valve repair device 602 to valve tissue, and the paddles 606 can take any suitable form, such as, for example, any form described in the present application. FIG. 22A illustrates the valve repair system 600 with the each of the four gripping members 608a-d in a first position, and FIG. 22C illustrates the valve repair system 600 with one of the gripping members 608a moved to a second position. FIG. 22B is a top view (as indicated by the lines 22B-22B shown in FIG. 22A) of the valve repair system 600 with each of the gripping members 608a-d being disposed in a first position. FIG. 22D is a cross-sectional view (as indicated by the lines C-C shown in FIG. 22C) of the valve repair system 600 with the gripping member 608a disposed the second position. Each of the four gripping members can be independently moved in the same manner as is illustrated by the gripping member 608a.

The valve repair device 602 includes a first gripping member 608a, a second gripping member 608b, a third gripping member 608c, and a fourth gripping member 608d. Each of the gripping members 608a-d includes a barbed portion 609a-d for securing the gripping members 608a-d to valve tissue. The gripper control mechanism 611 includes a first gripper control member 2202a configured to control the first gripping member 608a, a second gripper control member 2202b configured to control the second gripping member 608b, a third gripper control member 2202c configured to control the third gripping member 608c, and a fourth gripper control member 2202d configured to control the fourth gripping member 608d. In particular, the first gripper control member 2202a is configured to move the gripping member 608a in the direction X, and the second gripper control member 2202b is configured to move the second gripping member 608b in the direction X. In addition, the third gripper control member 2202c is configured to move the gripping member 608c in the direction Z, and the fourth gripper control member 2202d is configured to move the fourth gripping member 608d in the direction Z. Movement of the gripping members 608a-b in the direction X will adjust the width of the opening between the gripping members 608a-b and the corresponding paddle 606, and movement of the gripping members 608c-d in the direction Z will adjust the width of the opening between the gripping members 608c-d and the corresponding paddle. The gripper control mechanism 611 is configured to move each of the gripping members 608a-d independently of each other. The gripper control members 2202a-d can take any suitable form that is capable of independently moving the gripping members 608a-d. In the illustrated embodiment, the gripper control members 2202a-d are lines, such as sutures, wires, etc. that are removably attached to each of the gripper members 608a-d, respectively, with both ends of the line extending through the delivery opening 716 of the delivery device 601. The gripper control members 2202a-d can be independently pulled into and released from the catheter to independently control the positions of the gripping members 608a-d.

Referring to FIGS. 22A and 22B, each of the gripping members 608a-d is shown in an extended position. Refer-

ring to FIGS. 22C and 22D, the first gripping member 608a is shown after the first gripper control member 2202a of the gripper control mechanism was pulled into the catheter causes the first gripping member 608a to move inward toward the shaft 603 in the direction X, and the other gripping members 608b-d remained in the position shown in FIGS. 22A and 22B. In other words, the illustrated embodiment shown in FIGS. 22A-22D show a first gripping member 608a being independently controlled relative to the other gripping members 608b-d. While the illustrated embodiment shows the first gripping member 608a being independently controlled, it should be understood that each of the gripping members 608a-d can be independently controlled by the corresponding gripper control member 2202a-d of the gripper control mechanism 611. In addition, while the illustrated embodiment of FIGS. 22A-22D illustrate a valve repair assembly 600 having four gripping members 608a-d and four gripper control members 2202a-d, it should be understood that any suitable number of gripping members and gripper control members can be utilized, and any number of the gripping members can be independently controlled by the gripper control mechanism. In addition, each of the gripping members 608a-608d can have any of the configurations disclosed in this application and each of the control mechanisms 2202a-2202d can have any of the forms disclosed in this application.

Referring to FIG. 23, another exemplary embodiment of a gripper control mechanism 611 includes a single line 2302, such as a suture or wire, that is removably attached to the gripping members 608a, 608b and removably fixed between a placement shaft 613 and a 603 shaft of the valve repair device. The connection 615 between the placement shaft 613 and a 603 shaft of the valve repair device can be at a wide variety of different positions. In the illustrate example, the connection 615 is aligned or substantially aligned with ends of the gripping members 608a, 608b. However, in other embodiments, the connection 615 can more distal, such as at a most proximal position that the coupler 605 can reach (see for example, the bailout positions of the coupler illustrated by FIGS. 45C and 46D). The single line 2302 is connected between the shaft 613 and the shaft 603, such that the single line 2302 can independently control the gripping members 608a, 608b. That is, movement of a first portion 2303 of the line 2302 in the direction Y will adjust the width W between the gripping member 608a and the paddle 606a, but will not adjust the width H between the gripping member 608b and the paddle 606b. Similarly, movement of a second portion 2305 of the line 2302 in the direction M will adjust the width H between the gripping member 608b and the paddle 606b, but will not adjust the width W between the gripping member 608a and the paddle 606a. After the valve repair device 602 is in the closed position and secured to valve tissue, the placement shaft 613 is detached from the shaft 603 of the valve repair device 602. The detachment of the shaft 603 from the shaft 613 causes the line to be released. The line 2302 can then be retracted into the catheter to release the gripping members 608a, 608b by pulling one end of the line 2302 into the catheter. Pulling one end of the line into the catheter pulls the other end of the line through the gripping members 608a, 608b and then into the catheter. Any of the lines described herein can be retracted in this manner.

Referring to FIG. 24, in certain embodiments, the placement shaft 613 and the shaft 603 of the device 602 can be hollow and fit over a coupling shaft 2400 that holds the shafts 613, 603 together. The shaft 603 of the device 602 can include a protruding portion 2406 and a recessed receiving

portion 2408. The positioning shaft 613 can include a protruding portion 2407 and a recessed receiving portion 2409. When the shafts 613, 603 are coupled, the protruding portion 2406 of the shaft 603 is disposed in the receiving portion 2409 of the shaft 613, and the protruding portion 2407 of the shaft 613 is disposed in the receiving portion 2408 of the shaft 603. The shafts 613, 603 can be connected in a wide variety of different ways. For example, the shaft 613 can include a bore or channel 2411 that is aligned with a bore or channel 2413 of the shaft 602 when the protruding portions 2406, 2407 are disposed in the receiving portions 2408, 2409, respectively. When the openings 2411, 2413 are aligned and the retaining shaft 2400 is placed into the openings 2411, 2413 in the direction X, the shafts 613, 603 are retained together. When the placement shaft is removed from the openings 2411, 2413 in the direction Z, protruding portions 2406, 2407 can be removed from the receiving portions 2408, 2409, such that the device 602 is detached from the placement shaft 613.

Still referring to FIG. 24, when the shafts 613, 603 are secured to each other, an aperture 2415 is created at interface 2417 between the shafts 613, 603. The aperture 2415 is configured to secure the line 2302 between the shafts 613, 603 to allow for independent control of the gripping members 608a, 608b. That is, the aperture 2415 is configured such that the line 2302 does not move relative to the aperture 2416 when the shafts 613, 603 are attached. Upon detachment of the shafts 613, 603, the line 2302 is released from the aperture 2415 and can be removed from the valve repair device 602. The line 2302 can then be retracted into the catheter to release the gripping members as described above.

Referring to FIGS. 23 and 24A-24B, in an alternative embodiment, the line 2302 of the gripper control mechanism 610 is secured between the placement shaft 613 and the shaft 603 of by a threaded connection to independently control the gripper members 608a, 608b. Referring to FIG. 24A, the placement shaft 613 includes a male threaded member 2419, and the shaft 603 includes a female threaded member 2421 configured to receive the male threaded member 2419 of the placement shaft 613. However, the male and female threads can be reversed. The placement shaft 613 is secured to the shaft 603 by inserting the male threaded member 2419 into the female threaded member 2421 of the shaft 603. The line 2302 of the gripper control mechanism 611 is disposed between the placement shaft 613 and the shaft 603 such that, when the placement shaft 613 is secured to the shaft 603, the line 2302 is compressed (as shown by reference character M) between the placement shaft 613 and the shaft 603. The compression M of the line 2302 between the placement shaft 613 and the shaft 603 causes the line 2302 to not move relative to the engagement point 2423 between the placement shaft 613, the shaft 603, and the line 2302 when the line 2302 is controlling the gripping members 608a, 608b. As a result, the compression M and resulting retention of the line 2302 allows the line 2302 to independently control the gripping members 608a, 608b.

Referring to FIG. 25, another exemplary embodiment of a gripper control mechanism 611 includes a first gripper control member 2502 and a second gripper control member 2504. The first gripper control member 2502 is configured to move the gripping member 608a bi-directionally in the direction X, and the second gripper control member 2504 is configured to move the gripping member 608b bi-directionally in the direction Z. Movement of the gripping member 608a in the direction X will adjust the width W of the opening 614a between the gripping member 608a and the paddle 606a, and movement of the gripping member 608b in

the direction Z will adjust the width H of the opening between the gripping member 608b and the paddle 606b. In the illustrated embodiment, the gripper control members 2202, 2204 include a push/pull link 2503, 2505, such as, for example, a catheter, a flexible rod, or a stiff wire and a coupler 2506, 2507. Each push/pull link 2503, 2505 extends from the delivery device 601 and is removably attached to the corresponding gripping member 608a, 608b by a coupler 2506, 2507. The link 2503 is configured to be pushed and pulled in the direction Y. Movement of the link 2503 in the direction Y causes the gripping member 608a to move in the direction X. Similarly, the link 2505 is configured to be pushed and pulled in the direction M, and movement of the catheter 2505 in the direction M causes the catheter 2505 to move the gripping member 608b in the direction H.

In another embodiment of a gripper control mechanism 611 is shown in FIG. 25A. In this embodiment, the gripper control members 2202, 2204 include a suture 2511, 2513 and a flexible wire 2503, 2505. In this embodiment, the first flexible wire 2503 includes a loop 2517 for receiving the first suture 2511 and for engaging a gripping member 608a (FIG. 25), and the second flexible wire 2505 includes a loop 2519 for receiving the second suture 2513 and for engaging the gripping member 608b (FIG. 25). The sutures 2517, 2519 are removably attached to each of the gripper members 608a, 608b, respectively, with both ends of the line extending through the delivery device 601 as described above. Each of the wires 2503, 2505 extends from the delivery device 601 and the loops 2517, 2519 of the respective wires 2503, 2505 are able to move along the corresponding sutures 2511, 2513, such that the loops 2517, 2519 can engage the corresponding gripping member 608a, 608b to move the gripping members (e.g., move the gripping members as described with respect to FIG. 25). The wires 2503, 2505 can be made of, for example, steel, NiTi, or other wire or a plastic material. In certain embodiments, the wires 2503, 2505 can have a diameter of between about 0.1 mm and 0.35 mm, such as between about 0.15 mm and 0.3 mm, such as between about 0.2 mm and 0.25 mm.

Referring to FIG. 26, another exemplary embodiment of a gripper control mechanism 611 includes a first catheter 2603, a second catheter 2605, and single line 2604, such as a wire or suture. The first catheter 2603 and line 2604 are configured to move the gripping member 608a in the direction X, and the second catheter 2605 and line 2604 configured to move the gripping member 608b in the direction Z. Movement of the gripping member 608a in the direction X will adjust the width W of the opening 614a between the gripping member 608a and the paddle 606a, and movement of the gripping member 608b in the direction Z will adjust the width H of the opening between the gripping member 608b and the paddle 606b. The line 2604 extends from the delivery device 601 through the catheters 2603, 2605 and is threaded through openings in both gripping member 608a, 608b. Each catheter 2603, 2605 is configured to engage and move the corresponding gripping member 608a, 608b. In particular, the catheter 2603 is configured to be pushed in the direction Y while the line 2604 is payed out of the catheter 2603 or tension in the line is reduced. The catheter 2603 is configured to be pulled in the direction Y while the line 2604 is pulled into the catheter 2603 or tension in the line is increased. Movement of the catheter 2603 in the direction Y causes the catheter 2603 to move the gripping member 608a in the direction X. Similarly, the catheter 2605 is configured to be pushed in the direction M while the line 2604 is payed out of the catheter 2605 or tension in the line is reduced. The catheter 2605 is configured to be pulled in the direction M

while the line **2604** is pulled into the catheter **2605** or tension in the line is increased. Movement of the catheter **2505** in the direction **M** causes the catheter **2505** to move the gripping member **608b** in the direction **H**. In an alternative embodiment, the gripper control mechanism **611** described above with reference to FIG. **26** can include a first flexible wire with a loop (e.g., the flexible wire **2503** with the loop **2517** shown in FIG. **25A**) and a second flexible wire with a loop (e.g., the flexible wire **2505** with the hoop **2519** shown in FIG. **25A**), and the single line **2604** extends through the hoop **2517**, **2519** of each of the wires **2503**.

Referring to FIGS. **27A-29B**, in certain embodiments, the valve repair device **602** and the paddle control mechanism **610** for a valve repair device **602** are configured such that each of the paddles **606** can be controlled independent of each other. Independent control for each of the paddles **606** is advantageous because the openings **614** between the paddles and the gripping members **608** can be adjusted independently as the valve repair device **602** is being attached to valve tissue (e.g., a mitral valve of a patient). In addition, independent paddle control will also be advantageous in situations in which one gripping member **608** and one paddle **606** sufficiently secure the valve repair device **602** to a first portion of valve tissue, but the other gripping member and the other paddle fail to connect the valve repair device to a second portion of valve tissue. In this situation, the paddle control mechanism **610** can be used to control only the paddle **606** that is not connected to the valve tissue to create an opening **614** for receiving the second portion of the valve tissue, and, after the second portion of the valve tissue is disposed in the opening, the unattached gripping member and the unattached paddle can be closed to secure the valve repair device **602** to the second portion of the valve tissue.

Referring to FIGS. **27A-27C**, the base assembly **604** of the valve repair device **602** includes a first shaft **603a**, a second shaft **603b**, a first coupler **605a**, and a second coupler **605b**. In addition, the paddle control mechanism **610** includes a first paddle control mechanism **2702** and a second paddle control mechanism **2704**. The first paddle control mechanism **2702** is configured to move the first coupler **605a** along the shaft **603a**, and the second paddle control mechanism **2704** is configured to move the second coupler **605b** along the shaft **603b**. Movement of the first coupler **605a** along the shaft **603a** causes the paddle **606a** to move between an open position and a closed position, and movement of the second coupler **605b** along the shaft **603b** causes the paddle **606b** to move between an open position and a closed position. In an alternative embodiment, the base assembly **604** can include a single shaft, a first coupler **605a** attached to the single shaft, and a second coupler **605b** attached to the single shaft. In this alternative embodiment, the paddle control mechanism **610** can include a first paddle control mechanism **2702** configured to move the first coupler **605a** along the single shaft to cause the paddle **606a** to move between an open position and a closed position, and a second paddle control mechanism **2704** configured to move the second coupler **605b** along the single shaft to cause the paddle **606b** to move between an open position and a closed position.

FIGS. **27A-27C** illustrate the paddles of the valve repair device moving between an open position and a closed position. The base assembly **604** of the valve repair device **602** includes a first link **2721** extending from point **A** to point **B**, a second link **2722** extending from point **B** to point **C**, a third link **2723** extending from point **C** to point **D**, a fourth link **2724** extending from point **D** to point **E**, and a fifth link

2725 extending from point **E** to point **F**. The coupler **605a** is movably attached to the shaft **603a**, the coupler **605b** is movably attached to the shaft **603b**, and the shafts **603a**, **603b** are fixed to the third link **2723**. The first link **2721** is pivotally attached to the coupler **605a** at point **A**, such that movement of the coupler **605a** along the shaft **603a** moves the location of point **A** and, consequently, moves the first link **2721**. Similarly, the fifth link **2725** is pivotally attached to the coupler **605b** at point **F**, such that movement of the coupler **605b** along the shaft **603b** moves the location of point **F** and, consequently moves the fifth link **2725**. The first link **2721** and the second link **2722** are pivotally attached to each other at point **B**, and the fifth link **2725** and the fourth link **2724** are pivotally attached to each other at point **E**. One paddle **606a** is attached to the first link **2721** such that movement of the first link **2721** causes the paddle **606a** to move, and the other paddle **606b** is attached to the fifth link **2725** such that movement of the fifth link **2725** causes the paddle **606b** to move.

Referring to FIG. **27A**, the paddles **606a**, **606b** are in the open position. Referring to FIGS. **27A** and **27B**, the paddle **606b** is moved from the open position (as shown in FIG. **27A**) to the closed position (as shown in FIG. **27B**) when the second paddle control mechanism **2704** moves the second coupler **605b** along the shaft **603b** in the direction **Y**, which causes a portion of the fifth link **2725** near point **F** to move in the direction **H**, and a portion of the fifth link **2725** near point **E** to move in the direction **J**. The paddle **606b** is attached to the fifth link **2725** such that movement of the second coupler **605b** in the direction **Y** causes the paddle **606b** to move in the direction **Z**. In addition, the fourth link **2724** is pivotally attached to the fifth link **2725** at point **E** such that movement of the second coupler **605b** in the direction **Y** causes the fourth link **2724** to move in the direction **K**. Referring to FIG. **27B**, the paddle **606b** moves in the direction **Q** when moving from the open position to the closed position. In an alternative embodiment in which the pivotal connection at point **E** between the fourth link **2724** and the fifth link **2725** is significantly lower than pivotal connection at point **F** between the fifth link **2725** and the second coupler **605b**, movement of the paddle **606b** from the open position to the closed position will act as shown in the embodiment shown in FIG. **27A** except that the fourth link **2724** will initially move in the direction substantially opposite to the direction **K** as the paddle **606b** is being closed. In any of the above-mentioned embodiments, the second paddle control mechanism **2704** can take any suitable form for moving the second coupler **605b** along the shaft **603b**, such as, for example, any form of a paddle control mechanism described in the present application.

Referring to FIGS. **27A** and **27C**, the paddle **606a** is moved from the open position (as shown in FIG. **27A**) to the closed position (as shown in FIG. **27C**) when the first paddle control mechanism **2702** moves the first coupler **605a** along the shaft **603a** in the direction **N**, which causes a portion of the first link **2721** near point **A** to move in the direction **L**, and a portion of the first link **2721** near point **B** to move in the direction **I**. The paddle **606a** is attached to the first link **2721** such that movement of the first coupler **605a** in the direction **N** causes the paddle **606a** to move in the direction **V**. In addition, the second link **2722** is pivotally attached to the first link **2721** at point **B** such that movement of the first coupler **605a** in the direction **N** causes the second link **2722** to move in the direction **R**. Referring to FIG. **27C**, the paddle **606a** moves in the direction **T** when moving from the open position to the closed position. In an alternative embodiment in which the pivotal connection at point **B** between the first

link 2721 and the second link 2722 is significantly lower than pivotal connection at point A between the first link 2721 and the first coupler 605a, movement of the paddle 606a from the open position to the closed position will act as shown in the embodiment shown in FIG. 27A except that the second link 2722 will initially move in the direction substantially opposite to the direction R as the paddle 606b is being closed. In any of the above-mentioned embodiments, the first paddle control mechanism 2702 can take any suitable form for moving the first coupler 605a along the shaft 603a, such as, for example, any form of a paddle control mechanism described in the present application.

Referring to FIGS. 28A-28C, in certain embodiments, the paddle control mechanism 610 includes a rack and pinion mechanism 2802 that is configured to selectively couple and decouple the paddles 606a, 606b from the shaft 603. The rack and pinion mechanism 2802 includes a first member 2804 attached to the shaft 603 and a toothed member 2806a, 2806b attached to each of the paddles 606a, 606b and pivotally connected to a base member 2801 at connections points A, B. The first member 2804 is configured such that the paddles 606a, 606b can be moved between the open and closed positions independent of each other. In the illustrated embodiment, the first member 2804 has ribbed portion 2805 and an open portion 2807. When the toothed member(s) 2806a, 2806b is aligned with the ribbed portion 2805 of the first member 2804, the toothed member(s) 2806a, 2806b are configured to engage the ribbed portion 2805 such that movement of the shaft in the direction Y relative to the base member 2801 causes the toothed member 2806a to pivot about connection point A in the direction M to move the paddle 606a between an open position and a closed position in the direction H, and causes the toothed member 2806b to pivot about connection point B in the direction N to move the paddle 606b between an open position and a closed position in the direction Z. When the open portion 2807 of the first member 2804 is aligned with either of the toothed members 2806a or 2806b, the tooth member that is aligned with the open portion 2807 is not engaged by the ribbed portion 2805 of the paddle 606a or 606b. As a result, movement of the shaft 603 in the direction Y does not affect the position of the paddle 606a or 606b.

FIGS. 28A-28B illustrate the corkscrew mechanism 2802 in a first position. In the first position, the toothed members 2806a, 2806b for both paddles 606a, 606b are aligned with the ribbed portion 2805 of the first member 2804. Referring to FIG. 28A, when the shaft 603 is moved in the direction Y, the toothed members 2806a, 2806b both engage the ribbed portion 2805 of the first member, which causes both paddles 606a, 606b to be moved between the open and closed positions. FIGS. 28C-28D illustrate the corkscrew mechanism 2802 in a second position. In the second position, the toothed member 2806a is aligned with the open portion 2807 of the first member 2804, and the toothed member 2806b is aligned with the ribbed portion 2806 of the first member 2804. Referring to FIG. 28C, when the shaft 603 is moved in the direction Y, the toothed member 2806b engages the ribbed portion 2805 of the first member 2804, which causes the paddle 606b to be moved between the open and closed positions, and the toothed member 2806a does not engage the first member, which causes the paddle 606a to remain in a current position. FIGS. 28E-28F illustrate the corkscrew mechanism 2802 in a third position. In the third position, the toothed member 2806b is aligned with the open portion 2807 of the first member 2804, and the toothed member 2806a is aligned with the ribbed portion 2806 of the first member 2804. Referring to FIG. 28E, when the shaft

603 is moved in the direction Y, the toothed member 2806a engages the ribbed portion 2805 of the first member 2804, which causes the paddle 606a to be moved between the open and closed positions, and the toothed member 2806b does not engage the first member, which causes the paddle 606b to remain in a current position. In certain embodiments, the rack and pinion mechanism 2802 is moved between the positions shown in FIGS. 28A-28F by rotating the shaft 603. In various embodiments, the rack and pinion mechanism 2802 includes a mechanism configured to maintain the paddles 606a, 606b in a desired position when the paddles are aligned with the open portion 2807 of the first member 2804, but is also configured to allow the paddles to move when the paddles are aligned with the ribbed portion 2805 of the first member 2804. The mechanism can take any suitable form, such as, for example, a clutch mechanism, a biasing member, a friction element, etc.

Referring to FIGS. 29A-29B, the paddle control mechanism 610 is configured to move a coupler 605 along a shaft 603 to move the paddles 606a, 606b between the open and closed positions (similar to the embodiment shown in FIGS. 6-12), and a locking mechanism 207 is configured to lock the coupler 605 on the shaft 603 to maintain the paddles 606a, 606b in a desired position. In certain embodiments, as shown in FIGS. 29A-29B, each of the paddles 606a, 606b include a pin 2902a, 2902b and a slot 2904a, 2904b. The pin 2902a is configured to move in slot 2904a, and the pin 2902b is configured to move in slot 2904b. The pins 2902a, 2902b are also configured to be locked in the slots 2904a, 2904b. When a pin 2902a, 2902b is unlocked in a slot 2904a, 2904b, the corresponding paddle 606a, 606b remains in a current position when the paddle control mechanism 610 moves the coupler 605 along the shaft 603. When a pin 2902a, 2902b is locked in a slot 2904a, 2904b, the corresponding paddle 606a, 606b moves between an open and closed position when the paddle control mechanism 610 moves the coupler 605 along the shaft 603.

FIG. 29A illustrates the valve repair device 602 with the paddles 606a, 606b in an open position. FIG. 29B illustrates the valve repair device 602 with the pin 2902a unlocked in slot 2904a, and pin 2902b locked in slot 2904b. Referring to FIG. 29B, the lock 607 is in an unlocked condition such that the coupler 605 can be moved along the shaft 603. Movement of the coupler 605 along the shaft 603 in the direction Y causes the paddle 606b to pivot about the locked pin 2902b such that the paddle 606b moves in the direction Z to a closed position. In addition, movement of the coupler 605 in the direction Y does not cause the paddle 606a to move because the pin 2902a is in an unlocked condition in the slot 2904a. Instead, movement of the coupler 605 in the direction Y causes the pin 2902a to move in the slot 2904a. Alternatively, the pin 2902a could be locked in slot 2904a and the pin 2902b could be unlocked in slot 2904b, such that movement of the coupler 605 in the direction Y would cause the paddle 606a to move to a closed position, and the paddle 606b to remain in the open position (by the pin 2902b moving in the slot 2904b). In addition, the pin 2902a could be locked in slot 2904a and the pin 2902b could be locked in slot 2904b, such that movement of the coupler 605 in the direction Y would cause both paddles 606a, 606b to move to the closed position. The pins 2902a, 2902b can be locked in the slot 2904a, 2904b by any suitable means, such as, for example, any means described herein with reference to lock 607.

Referring to FIG. 30, in certain situations, the mitral valve 3001 of a patient can have a wide gap 3002 between the anterior leaflet 3003 and the posterior leaflet 3004 when the

mitral valve is in a closed position (i.e., during the systolic phase). For example, the gap 3002 can have a width W between about 2.5 mm and about 17.5 mm, such as between about 5 mm and about 15 mm, such as between about 7.5 mm and about 12.5 mm, such as about 10 mm. In some situations, the gap 3002 can have a width W greater than 15 mm. In any of the above-mentioned situations, a valve repair device is desired that is capable of engaging the anterior leaflet 3003 and the posterior leaflet 3004 to close the gap 3002 and prevent regurgitation of blood through the mitral valve 3001.

FIGS. 31A-37D provide various embodiments of valve repair devices 602 that are configured to close a wide gap 3002 (FIG. 30) between the anterior leaflet 3003 and posterior leaflet 3004 of a mitral valve 3001. Referring to FIGS. 31A-31B, an exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device 602 includes paddles 606 and gripping members 608. In addition, the valve repair device 602 can include any other features for a valve repair device discussed in the present application, and the valve repair device 602 can be positioned to engage valve tissue 820 as part of any suitable valve repair system (e.g., any valve repair system disclosed in the present application). Referring to FIG. 31A, the paddles 606 of the valve repair device 602 are pivoted outward in the direction X to create an opening 614 between the paddles 606 and the gripping members 608 having a width W. The width W can be, for example, between about 5 mm and about 15 mm, such as between 7.5 mm and about 12.5 mm, such as about 10 mm. In alternative embodiments, the width W can be less than 5 mm or greater than 15 mm. Referring to FIG. 31B, the paddles 606 of the valve repair device 602 are moved outward in the direction Z such that the opening 614 has a width H. The width H can be, for example, between about 10 mm and about 25 mm, such as between about 10 mm and about 20 mm, such as between about 12.5 mm and about 17.5 mm, such as about 15 mm. In alternative embodiments, the width H can be less than 10 mm or more than 25 mm. In certain embodiments, the ratio between the width H and the width W can be about 5 to 1 or less, such as about 4 to 1 or less such as about 3 to 1 or less, such as about 2 to 1 or less, such as about 1.5 to 1 or less, such as about 1.25 to 1 or less, such as about 1 to 1. The valve repair device 602 can be configured such that the paddles 606 are pivoted outward in the direction X and then moved outward in the direction Z to create the opening 614 having a width H between the paddles 606 and the gripping members 608. Alternatively, the valve repair device 602 can be configured such that the paddles are moved outward in the direction Z and then pivoted outward in the direction X to create width H between the paddles 606 and gripping members 608. In addition, the valve repair device 602 can be configured such that the paddles 606 are pivoted outward in the direction X and moved outward in the direction Z simultaneously to create the width H between the paddles 606 and the gripping members 608.

FIGS. 32A-32C illustrate a valve repair device 602 in which the paddles 606 are pivoted outward in the direction X, and, subsequently, moved outward in the direction Z to create a wider opening 614. FIG. 32A illustrates the valve repair device 602 in a closed position, such that the paddles 606 are engaging the gripping members 608. Referring to FIG. 32B, the paddles 606 are pivoted outward in the direction X to create an opening 614 having a width W for receiving valve tissue. Referring to FIG. 32C, after the paddles 606 are pivoted outward in the direction X, the paddles 606 are moved outward in the direction Z such that the opening 614 has a width H. After valve tissue is received

in the openings 614 between the paddles 606 and the gripping members 608, the valve repair device is moved back to the closed position (as shown in FIG. 32A) to secure the valve repair device 602 to the valve tissue. The valve repair device 602 can include any other features for a valve repair device discussed in the present application, and the valve repair device 602 can be positioned to engage valve tissue 820 as part of any suitable valve repair system (e.g., any valve repair system disclosed in the present application).

FIGS. 33A-33C illustrate a valve repair device 602 in which the paddles 606 are moved outward in the direction Z, and, subsequently, pivoted outward in the direction X to create a wider opening 614. FIG. 33A illustrates the valve repair device 602 in a closed position, such that the paddles 606 are engaging the gripping members 608. Referring to FIG. 33B, the paddles 606 are moved outward in the direction Z to create an opening 614 having a width W for receiving valve tissue. Referring to FIG. 33C, after the paddles 606 are moved outward in the direction Z, the paddles 606 are pivoted outward in the direction X such that the opening 614 has a width H. After valve tissue is received in the openings 614 between the paddles 606 and the gripping members 608, the valve repair device is moved back to the closed position (as shown in FIG. 33A) to secure the valve repair device 602 to the valve tissue. The valve repair device 602 can include any other features for a valve repair device discussed in the present application, and the valve repair device 602 can be positioned to engage valve tissue 820 as part of any suitable valve repair system (e.g., any valve repair system disclosed in the present application).

While FIGS. 32A-32C illustrate a valve repair device 602 in which the paddles 606 are pivoted and then spread apart, and FIGS. 33A-33C illustrate a valve repair device 602 in which the paddles 606 are spread apart and then pivoted, in alternative embodiments, a valve repair device 602 can include paddles 606 that can be spread apart and pivoted simultaneously. In addition, in certain embodiments, the paddles 606 can be spread apart and pivoted independently of each other. That is, in the embodiments for the valve repair device 602 shown in FIGS. 32A-32C and 33A-33C, as well as the embodiment in which the spreading apart and pivoting of each paddle 606 is completed simultaneously, the paddles 606 can be controlled independently of each other.

Referring to FIGS. 34A-34B, another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device 602 configured to close a wide gap 3002 (FIG. 30) between the anterior leaflet 3003 and the posterior leaflet 3004 includes a W-shaped mechanism. In particular, the valve repair device 602 includes a coupler 605 configured to move along a shaft 603 and paddles 606 pivotally attached to the coupler 605. The paddles 606 include an inner link 3402 and an outer link 3404. The inner link 3402 of each paddle 606 is pivotally attached to coupler 605, and the outer link 3404 of each paddle 606 is pivotally attached to the corresponding inner link 3402. Referring to FIG. 34A, the valve repair device 602 is shown in a closed position. Referring to FIG. 34B, movement of the coupler 605 in the direction Y causes the inner links 3402 of the paddles 606 to extend in an outward direction X. In the illustrated example, the inner links 3402 engage a cam member 3403, which forces the inner links 3402 to open in the X direction. Although the illustrated embodiment shows a valve repair device 602 having generally linear links 3402, 3404 that create a W-shaped mechanism, it should be understood that the links 3402, 3404 may take any suitable form that allows the valve repair device 602 to function as shown in FIGS. 34A-34B. In embodiments in which the

links **3402**, **3404** take non-linear forms (e.g., a curved form), the valve repair device may not have a W-shaped mechanism, however, the valve repair device can include similar connections such that the valve repair device will function as shown in FIGS. **34A-34B**.

The outer links **3404** can be moved to the illustrated more open position in the direction **Z** in a variety of different ways. For example, the outer links can be moved using any of the clasp control arrangements described herein. For example, movement of the outer links **3404** can be controlled using any of the clasp control arrangements shown in FIGS. **22-26** and/or any of the paddle control arrangements described herein. In one embodiment, referring to FIGS. **34C-34D**, a link **3411** is attached to the pivotal connection between the inner link **3402** and the coupler **605** and the pivotal connection between the inner link **3402** and the outer link **3404**, such that movement of the coupler **605** in the direction **Y** causes a first end **3413** of the link **3411** to rotate in the direction **M** with the pivotal connection **3475**, which causes a second end **3415** of the link **3411** to rotate in the direction **N** with the pivotal connection **3477**. The rotation of the second end **3415** of the link **3411** in the direction **N** causes the outer link **3404** to move to an open position in the direction **Z**.

For illustrative purposes, the embodiment shown in FIGS. **34C-34D** show a link **3411** for one of the paddles **606**, however, it should be understood that another link **3411** interacts with the other paddle in the same manner described above to cause the outer link **3404** of the other paddle to move to an open position in the direction **Z**. In an alternative embodiment, a four-bar linkage can be used to move the paddles **606** to an open position. In another alternative embodiment, a suture can be removably attached to the outer links **3404** of the paddles **606**, and the suture can be controlled to move the outer links **3404** of the paddles **606** to an open position in the direction **Z**.

In certain embodiments, the valve repair device **602** includes a biasing member **3410** (e.g., a spring) that attaches the inner links **3402** of the paddles **606** to each other. The biasing member **3410** maintains the inner links **3402** in a closed position (as shown in FIGS. **34A** and **34C**), until the inner links **3402** engage the cam member **3403** (as shown in FIGS. **34B** and **34D**). The valve repair device **602** can include any other features for a valve repair device discussed in the present application, and the valve repair device **602** can be positioned to engage valve tissue **820** as part of any suitable valve repair system (e.g., any valve repair system disclosed in the present application).

Referring to FIGS. **35A-35B**, another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device **602** configured to close a wide gap **3002** (FIG. **30**) between the anterior leaflet **3003** and the posterior leaflet **3004** includes a W-shaped mechanism. In particular, the valve repair device **602** includes a coupler **605** configured to be moved along a shaft **603** and paddles **606** pivotally attached to the shaft and to the coupler **605**. The lower ends **3501** of each paddle **606** of the valve repair device **602** are pivotally connected to the shaft at point **A**. Each of the paddles **606** include an intermediate member **3502** that pivotally attach the paddles to the coupler **605** at pivot point **B**. Referring to FIG. **35A**, the valve repair device **602** is shown in a closed position. Referring to FIG. **35B**, movement of the coupler **605** in the direction **Y** causes the intermediate members **3502** of the paddles **606** to pivot such that a lower end **3503** of the intermediate members **3502** extend in an outward direction **X**, which causes the paddles **606** to move to an open position in the direction **Z**. The valve repair device **602** can include any other features for a valve

repair device discussed in the present application, and the valve repair device **602** can be positioned to engage valve tissue **820** as part of any suitable valve repair system (e.g., any valve repair system disclosed in the present application).

Referring to FIGS. **36A-36B**, another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device **602** configured to close a wide gap **3002** (FIG. **30**) between the anterior leaflet **3003** and the posterior leaflet **3004** includes a W-shaped mechanism. In particular, the valve repair device **602** includes paddles **606** having a linkage **3602** pivotally attaching the paddles **606** to a shaft **603** of the valve repair device **602**. The linkage **3602** includes an inner link **3603** and an outer link **3605**. The inner link **3603** is pivotally attached to the shaft **603** and pivotally attached to the outer link **3605**. The outer link **3605** is pivotally attached to the inner link **3603** and pivotally attached to the paddle **606**. The paddles **606** are also attached to a link **3608** of the valve repair device **602**. A paddle control mechanism **610** is configured to move the pivotal connection at point **A** between the inner link **3603** and the outer link **3605** of the linkage **3602** in the direction **Y**, which causes the paddles **606** to move between an open position (as shown in FIG. **36B**) and a closed position (as shown in FIG. **36A**).

Still referring to FIGS. **36A** and **36B**, although the paddle control mechanism is shown attached at the pivotal connection point **A**, it should be understood that the paddle control mechanism **610** can be attached to one or more of any of the links of the valve repair device **602**. For example, the paddle control mechanism **610** can be coupled to the paddle **606**, the link **3605**, and/or the link **3603**. The paddle control mechanism **610** can take any suitable form, such as, for example, a control wire or any other form described in the present application. For example, the paddle control device **610** can take the form of any of the gripper control devices shown in FIGS. **6-8** and **22-26**. The valve repair device **602** can include any other features for a valve repair device discussed in the present application.

Referring to FIG. **36C**, the paddle control mechanism **610** of the embodiment illustrated by FIGS. **36A** and **36B** can include a spool **3620** and a line **3622** (e.g., a suture, a wire, etc.), and the line is attached to and wrapped around the spool. In this embodiment, creating a force on the line **3622** in the direction **Z** causes the spool **3620** to turn and line **3622** to be unwrapped from the spool. In this embodiment, the rotation of the spool **3620** causes the paddle control mechanism **610** to move in the direction **Y** and the valve repair device **602** to move to the open position (as shown in FIG. **36B**).

Referring to FIGS. **36D-36E**, another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device **602** configured to close a wide gap **3002** (FIG. **30**) between the anterior leaflet **3003** and the posterior leaflet **3004** includes a semi-rigid W-shaped mechanism. In particular, the valve repair device **602** has a linkage **3602** that flexibly attaches the paddles **606** to a shaft **603** of the valve repair device **602**. The linkage **3602** includes a rigid inner link **3603** and an outer rigid link **3605**. The inner rigid link **3603** is flexibly attached to the shaft **603** by a flexible member or portion **3613** and flexibly attached to the outer rigid link **3605** by a flexible member or portion **3611**, and the outer rigid link **3605** is flexibly attached to the paddle **606** by a flexible member or portion **3615**. The paddles **606** are also flexibly attached to a link **3608** of the valve repair device **602** by a flexible member or portion **3617**. The rigid links **3603**, **3605** can be made of, for example, steel or nitinol. The flexible members **3611**, **3613**, **3615**, **3617** can be made of, for example, nitinol. A paddle control mechanism **610** is configured to move the pivotal

connection at point A between the inner link 3603 and the outer link 3605 of the linkage 3602 in the direction Y, which causes the paddles 606 to move between an open position (as shown in FIG. 36D) and a closed position (as shown in FIG. 36C). However, the paddle control mechanism 610 can be attached to one or more of any of the links of the valve repair device. For example, the paddle control mechanism 610 can be coupled to the paddle 606, the link 3605, and/or the link 3603. The paddle control mechanism 610 can take any suitable form, such as, for example, a control wire or any other form described in the present application. For example, the paddle control device 610 can take the form of any of the gripper control devices shown in FIGS. 6-8 and 22-26. The valve repair device 602 can include any other features for a valve repair device discussed in the present application.

Referring to FIGS. 37A-37D, another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device 602 configured to close a wide gap 3002 (FIG. 30) between the anterior leaflet 3003 and the posterior leaflet 3004 includes wire mesh paddles 606 and an internal cam 3702 configured to push the mesh paddles 606 apart. The internal cam 3702 is rotatably attached to the shaft 603 such that the cam can be moved between a first position (as shown in FIGS. 37A-37B) and a second position (as shown in FIGS. 37C-37D). FIG. 37B is a top view illustrating the internal cam 3702 in the first position, shown along the lines B-B in FIG. 37A. FIG. 37D is a top view illustrating the internal cam 3702 in the second position, shown along the lines D-D in FIG. 37C.

Referring to FIGS. 37A and 37B, when the internal cam 3702 is in the first position, the internal cam does not engage the paddles 606, and the valve repair device is maintained in a closed position. Referring to FIGS. 37C and 37D, when the internal cam 3702 is in the second position, the internal cam engages the paddles 606 to move the paddles to move the valve repair device 602 is moved from the open position to the closed position by moving the internal cam 3702 from the second position to the first position.

In some embodiments, referring to FIGS. 37E-37F, the paddles 606 of the valve repair device can include a flexible member or portion 3711 that bias the paddles into the closed position or the open position. The flexible member or portion 3711 can be configured to flex upon being engaged by the cam 3702 to allow the paddles 606 to move to the open position. The flexible member or portion 3711 is also configured to widen the reach of the paddles 606 when the paddles are in the open position. Any other suitable mechanisms can be used to bias the paddles in the closed position and/or widen the reach of the paddles 606 when the paddles are in the open position, such as, for example, a spring-loaded mechanism. The valve repair device 602 can include any other features for a valve repair device discussed in the present application, and the valve repair device 602 can be positioned to engage valve tissue 820 as part of any suitable valve repair system (e.g., any valve repair system disclosed in the present application). The mesh paddles 606 can be made out of any suitable material that can be expanded by the internal cam 3702, such as, for example, nitinol, stainless steel, or any braided or electrospun material.

Referring to FIGS. 38-39, in certain situations, the mitral valve 3001 of a patient can have a wide gap 3002 between the anterior leaflet 3003 and the posterior leaflet 3004 when the mitral valve is in a closed position (i.e., during the systolic phase). For example, the gap 3002 can have a width W between about 2.5 mm and about 17.5 mm, such as between about 5 mm and about 15 mm, such as between

about 7.5 mm and about 12.5 mm, such as about 10 mm. In some situations, the gap 3002 can have a width W greater than 15 mm. In any of the above-mentioned situations, a valve repair device is desired that fills a sufficient volume to allow the gap 3002 to be closed or filled without placing a large amount of strain on the leaflets 3003, 3004. For example, the valve repair device can include a spacer element 3800.

Referring to FIG. 39, in certain embodiments, the spacer element 3800 is attached to the valve repair device 602, such that, when the paddles 606 and gripping members 608 secure the valve repair device 602 to the mitral valve 3001, the spacer element 3800 is disposed in the gap 3002 between the anterior leaflet 3003 and the posterior leaflet 3004. The spacer element 3800 can be made of any suitable material, such as, for example, braided mesh, fabric, biocompatible material, foam, pericardial tissue, any material disclosed herein, etc.

Referring to FIGS. 40A-40B, an exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device 602 has a spacer element 3800 attached to the shaft 603 of the valve repair device. The spacer element 3800 can extend past the outer edges 4001 of the gripping members 3800 as illustrated for providing additional surface area for closing the gap 3002 (FIGS. 38-39) of a mitral valve 301. In an alternative embodiment, the coupler member 605 can take the form of the spacer element 3800. That is, a single element can be used as the coupler member 605 that causes the paddles 606 to move between the open and closed positions and the spacer element 3800 that closes the gap between the leaflets 3003, 3004 when the valve repair device 602 is attached to the leaflets. The valve repair device 602 can include any other features for a valve repair device discussed in the present application, and the valve repair device 602 can be positioned to engage valve tissue 820 as part of any suitable valve repair system (e.g., any valve repair system disclosed in the present application).

Referring to FIGS. 42A-42C, the spacer element 3800 shown in FIGS. 40A-40B can take a variety of different shapes. Referring to FIG. 42A, an exemplary embodiment of a spacer element 3800 includes a main body 4210a extending between the gripping members 608 and past the edges 4201 of the gripping members, and extended portions 4212a that extend from the main body 4210a. The extended portions 4212a allow portions of the gap 3002 (FIGS. 38-39) of the mitral valve between the anterior leaflet 3003 and posterior leaflet 3004 and adjacent to the valve repair device 602 to be filled when the valve repair device is in a closed position. That is, when a valve repair device 602 is attached to a mitral valve to prevent regurgitation of blood through the mitral valve, the portions of the mitral valve next to the valve repair device may include openings from the tissue of the mitral valve extending around the valve repair device. The extended portions 4212a are configured to fill or plug the openings adjacent to the valve repair device 602. In the illustrated embodiment, the length L of the extended portions 4212a are greater than the width W of the extended portions.

Referring to FIG. 42B, another exemplary embodiment of a spacer element 3800 includes a main body 4210b extending between the gripping members 608 and extended portions 4212b that extend from the main body 4210b. In the illustrated embodiment, the extended portions 4212b have a semicircular shape. The extended portions 4212b are configured to fill the openings adjacent to the valve repair device 602 due to tissue of the mitral valve extending around the valve repair device.

Referring to FIG. 42C, another exemplary embodiment of a spacer element 3800 includes a main base assembly 4210c extending between the gripping members 608, first extending portions 4212c that extend from the main body 4210c, and second extending portions 4214c that extend from the first extending portions 4212c. In the illustrated embodiment, the first extended portions 4212c have a semicircular shape, and the second extended portions 4214c have a length L that is greater than its width W. The extended portions 4212b are configured to fill the openings adjacent to the valve repair device 602 due to tissue of the mitral valve extending around the valve repair device.

Referring to FIGS. 41A-41D, another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device 602 has a spacer element 3800 attached to the gripping members 608a, 608b of the valve repair device. The spacer element 3800 includes a first portion 4102 attached to one gripping member 608a and a second portion 4104 attached to the other gripping member 608b. Referring to FIG. 41C, the valve repair device 602 is shown in the closed position. When the valve repair device 602 is in the closed position, the first portion 4102 of the spacer element 3800 and the second portion 4104 of the spacer element 3800 engage each other and surround the shaft 603 (as shown in FIG. 41B). Referring to FIG. 41D, the valve repair device 602 is shown in the open position, the first portion 4102 of the spacer element 3800 moves with the gripping member 608a, and the second portion 4104 of the spacer element 3800 moves with the gripping member 608b. A spacer element 3800 having multiple portions 4102, 4104 allows the gripping members 608a, 608b to be moved to adjust the width of the opening between the paddles 606 and the gripping members, which is advantageous in attaching the valve repair device 602 to valve tissue 820. Referring to FIG. 41B, the spacer element 3800 extends past the outer edges 4001 of the gripping members 3800 for providing additional surface area for filling the gap 3002 (FIGS. 38-39) of a mitral valve 301. The valve repair device 602 can include any other features for a valve repair device discussed in the present application, and the valve repair device 602 can be positioned to engage valve tissue 820 as part of any suitable valve repair system (e.g., any valve repair system disclosed in the present application).

Referring to FIGS. 43A-43C, the spacer element 3800 shown in FIGS. 41A-41D can take a variety of different shapes. Referring to FIG. 43A, an exemplary embodiment of a spacer element 3800 in the closed position includes a main body 4310a extending between the gripping members 608 and past the edges 4201 of the gripping members, and extended portions 4312a that extend from the main body 4310a. The extended portions 4312a allow portions of the gap 3002 (FIGS. 38-39) of the mitral valve between the anterior leaflet 3003 and posterior leaflet 3004 and adjacent to the valve repair device 602 to be filled when the valve repair device is in a closed position. That is, when a valve repair device 602 is attached to a mitral valve to prevent regurgitation of blood through the mitral valve, the portions of the mitral valve next to the valve repair device may include openings from the tissue of the mitral valve extending around the valve repair device. The extended portions 4312a are configured to fill the openings adjacent to the valve repair device 602. In the illustrated embodiment, the length L of the extended portions 4312a are greater than the width W of the extended portions.

Referring to FIG. 43B, another exemplary embodiment of a spacer element 3800 in the closed position includes a main body 4310b extending between the gripping members 608 and extended portions 4312b that extend from the main body

4310b. In the illustrated embodiment, the extended portions 4312b have a semicircular shape. The extended portions 4312b are configured to fill the openings adjacent to the valve repair device 602 due to tissue of the mitral valve extending around the valve repair device.

Referring to FIG. 43C, another exemplary embodiment of a spacer element 3800 includes a main base assembly 4310c extending between the gripping members 608, first extending portions 4312c that extend from the main body 4310c, and second extending portions 4314c that extend from the first extending portions 4312c. In the illustrated embodiment, the first extended portions 4312c have a semicircular shape, and the second extended portions 4314c have a length L that is greater than its width W. The extended portions 4312b are configured to fill the openings adjacent to the valve repair device 602 due to tissue of the mitral valve extending around the valve repair device.

Referring to FIGS. 44A-44B, in certain embodiments, an expanding spacer element 3800 is integral with the valve repair device 602. The expanding spacer element 3800 is configured to expand as the paddles 606 close (as shown in FIG. 44B). Referring to FIG. 44A, the valve repair device 602 is in an open position such that valve tissue can be received in the opening 614 between the expanding spacer element 3800 and the paddles 606. Referring to FIG. 44B, the valve repair device 602 is in the closed position, in which the paddles 606 and the expanded spacer element 3800 are engaged to secure the valve repair device to valve tissue. When the spacer elements 3800 and the paddles 606 are engaged, the spacer element 3800 expands to provide a larger surface area for closing a gap 3002 (FIG. 38) between the anterior leaflet 3003 and posterior leaflet 3004 of a mitral valve 3001. In the illustrated embodiment, the valve repair device 602 takes the form of the valve repair device 602 in FIGS. 35A-35B. However, any valve repair device 602 described in the present application can include an expanding spacer element 3800. The valve repair device 602 can include any other features for a valve repair device discussed in the present application, and the valve repair device 602 can be positioned to engage valve tissue 820 as part of any suitable valve repair system (e.g., any valve repair system disclosed in the present application).

Referring to FIGS. 45A-46D, in certain situations, the valve repair device 602 needs to be detached from a native valve and removed from the patient. In these situations, it is advantageous to have a valve repair device that can be narrowed and rearranged (to a bailout position) such that the valve repair device will be easier to remove from the patient without disturbing any valve tissue of the patient's heart.

Referring to FIGS. 45A-45C, the base assembly 604 of an exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device 602 includes a first link 4521 extending from point A to point B, a second link 4522 extending from point A to point C, a third link 4523 extending from point B to point D, a fourth link 4524 extending from point C to point E, and a fifth link 4525 extending from point D to point E. A coupler 605 is movably attached to a shaft 603, and the shaft 603 is fixed to the fifth link 4525. The first link 4521 and the second link 4522 are pivotally attached to the coupler 605 at point A, such that movement of the coupler 605 along the shaft 603 moves the location of point A and, consequently, moves the first link 4521 and the second link 4522. The first link 4521 and the third link 4523 are pivotally attached to each other at point B, and the second link 4522 and the fourth link 4524 are pivotally attached to each other at point C. One paddle 606a is attached to first link 4521 such that movement of first link 4521 causes the paddle 606a to move, and the other paddle

606b is attached to the second link **4522** such that movement of the second link **4522** causes the paddle **606b** to move.

In order to move the valve repair device **602** from the closed position (as shown in FIG. **45A**) to the bailout position (as shown in FIG. **45C**), the coupler **605** is moved along the shaft **603** in the direction Y, which moves the pivot point A for the first link **4521** and the second link **4522** to a new position. Referring to FIG. **45A**, the valve repair device **602** is shown in a closed position with an angle α between the paddle **606** and the shaft **603**. The angle α can be, for example, between about 0 degrees and about 45 degrees, such as between about 5 degrees and about 40 degrees, such as between about 15 degrees and about 30 degrees, such as between about 20 degrees and about 25 degrees. Referring to FIG. **45B**, the valve repair device **602** is moved to the open position by moving the coupler **605** along the shaft **603** in the direction Y. Movement of the coupler **605** in the direction Y causes the first link **4521** to pivot about point A such that the first link **4521** and the second link **4522** move outward in the direction Z, which causes the paddles **606a**, **606b** to move downward and outward in the direction H. Referring to FIG. **45C**, the valve repair device **602** is moved to the bailout position by continuing to move the coupler **605** along the shaft **603** in the direction Y. The continued movement of the coupler **605** in the direction Y causes the first link **4521** and the second link **4522** to move inward in the direction M, which causes the paddles **606a**, **606b** to move downward and inward in the direction N. Still referring to FIG. **45C**, in the bailout position, the valve repair device **602** has an angle β between the paddles **606** and the shaft **603**. The angle β can be, for example, greater than or equal to 120 degrees, such as greater than or equal to 130 degrees, such as greater than or equal to 140 degrees, such as greater than or equal to 150 degrees, such as greater than or equal to 160 degrees.

Referring to FIGS. **46A-46D**, the base assembly **604** of another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device **602** includes a first link **4621** extending from point A to point B, a second link **4622** extending from point A to point C, a third link **4623** extending from point B to point D, a fourth link **4624** extending from point C to point E, a fifth link **4625** extending from point D to point F, and a sixth link **4626** extending from point E to point F. A coupler **605** is movably attached to a shaft **603**, and the shaft **603** is attached to the fifth link **4625** and the sixth link **4626** at point F. The first link **4621** and the second link **4622** are pivotally attached to the coupler **605** at point A, such that movement of the coupler **605** along the shaft **603** moves the location of point A and, consequently, moves the first link **4621** and the second link **4622**. The fifth link **4625** and the sixth link **4626** are pivotally attached to the shaft at point F, such that movement of the shaft moves the location of point F and, consequently, moves the fifth link **4625** and the sixth link **4626**. A locking element **4631** is configured to selectively lock the fifth link **4625** and the sixth link **4626** to the shaft at point F, such that the fifth link **4625** and the sixth link **4626** cannot pivot relative to the shaft **603** when the locking element **4631** is in the locked position. However, when the locking element **4631** is in the unlocked position, the fifth link **4625** and the sixth link **4626** can pivot about the shaft **603** when the shaft moves the location of point F (as described above). The first link **4621** and the third link **4623** are pivotally attached to each other at point B, and the second link **4622** and the fourth link **4624** are pivotally attached to each other at point C. One paddle **606a** is attached to first link **4621** such that movement of first link **4621** causes the paddle **606a** to move, and the other paddle

606b is attached to the second link **4622** such that movement of the second link **4622** causes the paddle **606b** to move.

In order to move the valve repair device **602** from the closed position (as shown in FIG. **46A**) to a bailout position (as shown in FIG. **46C**), the locking element **4631** is maintained in a locked position, and the coupler **605** is moved along the shaft **603** in the direction Y, which moves the pivot point A for the first link **4621** and the second link **4622** to a new position. In order to move the valve repair device **602** from the bailout position to the collapsed bailout position (as shown in FIG. **46D**), the locking element **4631** is moved to an unlocked position, and the shaft **603** is moved in the direction D, which moves the pivot point F for the fifth link **4625** and the sixth link **4626** to a new position, which causes the fifth link **4625** and the sixth link **4626** to pivot about the shaft **603**.

Referring to FIG. **46A**, the valve repair device **602** is shown in a closed position with an angle α between the paddle **606** and the shaft **603**. The angle α can be, for example, between about 0 degrees and about 45 degrees, such as between about 5 degrees and about 40 degrees, such as between about 15 degrees and about 30 degrees, such as between about 20 degrees and about 25 degrees. Referring to FIG. **46B**, the valve repair device **602** is moved to the open position by moving the coupler **605** along the shaft **603** in the direction Y. Movement of the coupler **605** in the direction Y causes the first link **4621** and the second link **4622** to move outward in the direction Z, which causes the paddles **606a**, **606b** to move downward and outward in the direction H. The locking element **4631** is maintained in the locked position when the valve repair device **602** is moved from the closed position (as shown in FIG. **46A**) to the open position (as shown in FIG. **46B**).

Referring to FIG. **46C**, the valve repair device **602** is moved to the bailout position by continuing to move the coupler **605** along the shaft **603** in the direction Y. The continued movement of the coupler **605** in the direction Y causes the first link **4621** and the second link **4622** to move inward in the direction M, which causes the paddles **606a**, **606b** to move downward and inward in the direction N. Still referring to FIG. **45C**, in the bailout position, the valve repair device **602** has an angle β between the paddles **606** and the shaft **603**. The angle β can be, for example, greater than or equal to 120 degrees, such as greater than or equal to 130 degrees, such as greater than or equal to 140 degrees, such as greater than or equal to 150 degrees, such as greater than or equal to 160 degrees. The locking element **4631** is maintained in the locked position when the valve repair device **602** is moved from the open position (as shown in FIG. **46B**) to the bailout position (as shown in FIG. **46C**).

Referring to FIG. **46D**, the valve repair device **602** is moved from the bailout position to the collapsed position by moving the locking element **4631** to an unlocked position and moving the shaft **603** in the direction D, which causes the fifth link **4625** and the sixth link **4626** to pivot about connection point F and move upward in a direction J, which causes the third link **4623** and the fourth link **4624** to move inward and downward in the direction Q, which causes the paddles **606a**, **606b** to move downward and inward in the direction Q. Still referring to FIG. **46D**, in the collapsed bailout position, the valve repair device **602** has an angle μ between the paddles **606** and the shaft **603**. The angle μ can be, for example, greater than or equal to 120 degrees, such as greater than or equal to 130 degrees, such as greater than or equal to 140 degrees, such as greater than or equal to 150 degrees, such as greater than or equal to 160 degrees, such as greater than or equal to 170 degrees.

It is advantageous to have a valve repair device that includes features to ensure that the valve repair device remains in a closed position after the valve repair device is attached to the native valve of a patient. In other words, it is advantageous to have a valve repair device that includes features to prevent the valve repair device from becoming detached from the native valve of a patient after placement of the valve repair device inside of the patient, which could cause problems (e.g., regurgitation of blood through the mitral valve). Examples of additional features for preventing a valve repair device from becoming detached from a native valve are shown in FIGS. 47A-49.

Referring to FIGS. 47A-47B, an exemplary embodiment of a valve repair device 602 includes a latch member 4701 attached to the paddles 606, in which the latch member 4701 is configured to attach the paddles 606 to the gripping members 608 when the valve repair device is in the closed position. The valve repair device 602 can include any other features for a valve repair device discussed in the present application, and the valve repair device 602 can be positioned to engage valve tissue 820 as part of any suitable valve repair system (e.g., any valve repair system disclosed in the present application). In the illustrated embodiment, the valve repair device 602 includes an optional lock 607 configured to keep a coupler 605 in a locked condition on the shaft 603. If the optional lock 607 fails, however, the coupler 605 could move on the shaft 603 and cause the valve repair device to move to an open position. The latch member 4701 is configured to keep the valve repair device 602 in the closed position if the lock 607 fails.

Referring to FIG. 47A, the valve repair device 602 is in an open position with valve tissue 820 disposed in the opening 614 between the paddles 606 and the gripping members 608. Referring to FIG. 47B, the valve repair device 602 is moved to the closed position such that the valve tissue 820 is secured between the paddles 606 and the gripping members 608 of the valve repair device. The valve repair device 602 can be moved to the closed position by any suitable manner, such as, for example, any manner described in the present application. When the valve repair device 602 is moved to the closed position, the latch member 4701 punctures the valve tissue 820 and the gripping member 608 to secure the paddle to the gripping member. The latch member 4701 can take any suitable form that is capable of securing the paddles 606 to the gripping members 608, such as, for example, metals, plastics, etc.

Referring to FIG. 48, another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair system 600 includes a delivery device 601 and a valve repair device 602, in which the delivery device is configured to deliver the valve repair device to the native valve of a patient, and in which the valve repair device is configured to attach to leaflets of a native valve to repair the native valve of the patient. The delivery device 601 can take any suitable form that is capable of delivering the valve repair device 602 to the native valve of a patient, such as, for example, any form described in the present application. The valve repair device 602 includes a base assembly 604, a pair of paddles 606, and a pair of gripping members 608. The base assembly 604 of the valve repair device 602 has a shaft 603 and a coupler 605 configured to move along the shaft. The coupler 605 is mechanically connected to the paddles such that movement of the coupler along the shaft 603 causes the paddles to move between an open position and a closed position. In the closed position, the paddles 606 and the gripping members 608 engage valve tissue and each other to secure the valve repair device 602 to the valve tissue. The valve repair device 602 also includes a biasing

member 4807 (e.g., a spring) configured to bias the coupler 605 on the shaft such that the valve repair device 602 is in a closed position.

In certain embodiments, the valve repair system 600 includes a placement shaft 613 that is removably attached to the shaft 603 of the base assembly 604 of the valve repair device 602. After the valve repair device 602 is secured to valve tissue, the placement shaft 613 is removed from the shaft 603 to remove the valve repair device 602 from the valve repair system 600, such that the valve repair device 602 can remain attached to the valve tissue, and the delivery device 601 can be removed from a patient's body. After the valve repair device 602 is attached to the valve tissue, and the valve repair system 600 is removed from the patient's body, the biasing member 4807 maintains the valve repair device in a closed position to prevent detachment of the valve repair device from the valve tissue. The valve repair device 602 can include any other features for a valve repair device discussed in the present application, and the valve repair device 602 can be positioned to engage valve tissue 820 as part of any suitable valve repair system (e.g., any valve repair system disclosed in the present application).

Referring to FIG. 49, another exemplary embodiment of a valve repair system 600 includes a delivery device 601 and a valve repair device 602, in which the delivery device is configured to deliver the valve repair device to the native valve of a patient, and in which the valve repair device is configured to attach to leaflets of a native valve to repair the native valve of the patient. The delivery device 601 can take any suitable form that is capable of delivering the valve repair device 602 to the native valve of a patient, such as, for example, any form described in the present application. The valve repair device 602 includes a base assembly 604, a pair of paddles 606, and a pair of gripping members 608. The base assembly 604 of the valve repair device 602 has a shaft 603 and a coupler 605 configured to move along the shaft. In the illustrated embodiment, the shaft 603 includes a threaded portion 4902, and the coupler 605 is configured to move along the threaded portion 4902 of the shaft. That is, rotating the shaft 603 causes the coupler 605 to move up and down the shaft 603. The coupler 605 is mechanically connected to the paddles such that movement of the coupler along the shaft 603 causes the paddles to move between an open position and a closed position. In the closed position, the paddles 606 and the gripping members 608 engage valve tissue and each other to secure the valve repair device 602 to the valve tissue.

In certain embodiments, the valve repair system 600 includes a placement shaft 613 that is removably attached to the shaft 603 of the base assembly 604 of the valve repair device 602. After the valve repair device 602 is secured to valve tissue, the placement shaft 613 is removed from the shaft 603 to remove the valve repair device 602 from the valve repair system 600, such that the valve repair device 602 can remain attached to the valve tissue, and the delivery device 601 can be removed from a patient's body. After the valve repair device 602 is attached to the valve tissue, and the valve repair system 600 is removed from the patient's body, the valve repair device is prevented from detaching from the valve tissue, because the coupler can only be moved by rotating the shaft 603. The valve repair device 602 can include any other features for a valve repair device discussed in the present application, and the valve repair device 602 can be positioned to engage valve tissue 820 as part of any suitable valve repair system (e.g., any valve repair system disclosed in the present application).

Referring to FIGS. 50-54, embodiments of valve repair systems 600 include a delivery device 601 and a valve repair device 602, in which the delivery device is configured to deliver the valve repair device to the native valve of a patient, and in which the valve repair device is configured to attach to leaflets of a native valve to repair the native valve of the patient. The delivery device 601 can take any suitable form that is capable of delivering the valve repair device 602 to the native valve of a patient, such as, for example, any form described in the present application. The valve repair device 602 is similar to the valve repair devices described above and includes a base assembly 604, a pair of paddles 606, and a pair of gripping members 608. The base assembly 604 of the valve repair device 602 has a shaft 603 and a coupler 605 configured to move along the shaft. The coupler 605 is mechanically connected to the paddles such that movement of the coupler along the shaft 603 causes the paddles to move between an open position and a closed position. In some embodiments, the valve repair device 602 includes a lock 607 configured to lock the coupler 605 in a desired position on the shaft (as shown in FIGS. 50-53B). In alternative embodiments, the valve repair device 602 includes a biasing member 4807 configured to maintain the coupler 605 in a desired position on the shaft 603 (as shown in FIG. 54). In the closed position, the paddles 606 and the gripping members 608 engage valve tissue and each other to secure the valve repair device 602 to the valve tissue. In certain embodiments, the valve repair system 600 includes a placement shaft 613 that is removably attached to the shaft 603 of the base assembly 604 of the valve repair device 602. After the valve repair device 602 is secured to valve tissue, the placement shaft 613 is removed from the shaft 603 to remove the valve repair device 602 from the valve repair system 600, such that the valve repair device 602 can remain attached to the valve tissue, and the delivery device 601 can be removed from a patient's body. The valve repair device 602 can include any other features for a valve repair device discussed in the present application, and the valve repair device 602 can be positioned to engage valve tissue 820 as part of any suitable valve repair system (e.g., any valve repair system disclosed in the present application).

Referring to FIG. 50, in some embodiments, the gripping members 608 are attached to the paddles 606. In the example illustrated by FIG. 50, the gripping members 608 include an attachment portion 5010, a hinge or flex portion 5012, and a gripping or barbed portion 5014. The attachment portion 5010 can take any form that allows the gripping member to be attached to the paddle 606. The hinge or flex portion 5012 can take a variety of different forms. For example, the hinge or flex portion can be configured to bias the gripping or barbed portion 5014 toward the attachment portion 5010. In one exemplary embodiment, the hinge or flex portion 5012 biases the gripping or barbed portion 5014 to a fully closed position where the gripping or barbed portion engages the attachment portion 5010 and/or the paddle 606. When valve tissue is positioned between the paddle 606 and the gripping portion 5014, the hinge or flex portion biases the gripping portion 5014 to clamp the valve tissue between the gripping or barbed portion 5014 and the paddle. The gripping member 608 illustrated by FIG. 50 moves with the paddle 606. The hinge or flex portion 5012 allows the gripping portion 5014 to move in the direction indicated by arrows 5020 and can allow the gripping portion to be pulled in the direction indicated by arrows 5022.

In certain embodiments, it is advantageous for the barbed portion 609 to be disposed toward a proximal end of the gripping members 608 because it will provide for an easier

release of the gripping members 608 from valve tissue. Referring to FIG. 51, in one embodiment, the gripping members 608 comprise a single row of barbs 5102 configured to engage the valve tissue and the paddles 606 to secure the valve repair device to the valve tissue. The single row of barbs 5102 makes it easier for the gripping portion 5014 to release from the valve tissue. In an alternative embodiment, the gripping members 608 can comprise two or more rows of barbs 5102 disposed at a proximal end of the gripping members 608. In additional embodiments, the barbs 5102 can be disposed at a proximal end of the gripping members 608 in any other suitable configuration that provides for an easier release of the gripping members 608 from valve tissue.

In some embodiments, as shown in FIGS. 51A-51E, the gripping member 608 is configured to place a tensioning force on the valve tissue when the valve repair device (e.g., any valve repair device 602 described in the present application) is attached to the valve tissue. The gripping member 608 is slidably connected to the paddle 606, such that the gripping member 608 can be moved along the paddle in the direction X. For example, a gripper control mechanism 611 can be used to move the gripping member 608 along the paddle 606 in the direction X, and the gripper control mechanism 611 can also be used to move the gripping member 608 between the closed position (as shown in FIG. 51A) and the open position (as shown in FIG. 51B). The gripper control mechanism 611 can take any form described in the present application. In certain embodiments, the valve repair device 602 includes an optional biasing member 5122 (e.g., a spring) configured to maintain the gripping member 608 in a desired position along the paddle 606 (e.g., the position shown in FIGS. 51A and 51E). In the illustrated embodiment, the gripping member 608 includes a single row of barbs 609 at a proximal end of the gripping members (e.g. as shown in the embodiment of the valve repair device 602 shown in FIG. 51), however, it should be understood that the features described herein regarding FIGS. 51A-51E can be used with any of the embodiments of the valve repair device described in the present application.

Referring to FIG. 51A, the gripping member 608 is shown in a first position on the paddle 606 and in a closed position. Referring to FIG. 51B, the gripping member 608 is shown after it has been moved in the direction Z to an open position by the gripper control mechanism 611. Referring to FIG. 51C, the gripping member 608 is shown after it has been moved along the paddle 606 in the direction D to a second position. In certain embodiments, the gripping member 608 is moved along the paddle in the direction D by the gripper control mechanism 611 or a separate mechanism. In embodiments that include the biasing member 5122, enough force needs to be applied on the gripping member 608 to move the gripping member in the direction D, which will cause the biasing member to expand and create a tensioning force on the gripping member 608 in the direction B. While the illustrated embodiment shows the gripping member 608 being moved to an open position (as shown in FIG. 51B) prior to the gripping member 608 being moved along the paddle 606 in the direction D to the second position (as shown in FIG. 51C), it should be understood that gripping member 608 can be moved in the direction D to the second position prior to the gripping member 608 being moved in the direction Z to an open position or the movements can be simultaneous. Referring to FIG. 51D, the gripping member 608 is moved to a closed position in the direction Y by the gripper control mechanism 611 to secure the barbed portion 609 of the gripping member 608 to valve tissue (not shown).

In the position shown in FIG. 51D, the biasing member 5122 is being maintained in an extended position (e.g., as a result of the force applied to the gripping member 608 by the gripper control mechanism (or another mechanism) to keep the gripping member in the second position), which means the biasing member 5122 is placing a tensioning force on the gripping member 608 in the direction B. Referring to FIG. 51E, after the barbed portion 609 of the gripping member 608 is secured to the valve tissue, the force maintaining the gripping member 608 in the second position is released, which causes the tensioning force applied by the biasing member 5122 to move the gripping member 608 along the paddle 606 in the direction M. The movement of the gripping member 608 in the direction M causes the barbed portion 609 to create a tensioning force on the valve tissue in the direction T. This tensioning force on the valve tissue allows the valve repair device 602 to maintain a secure connection to the valve tissue.

In another embodiment, as shown in FIGS. 51F-51G, the gripping member 608 includes a barbed portion 609 and a weakened or flexing portion 5103. The barbed portion 609 is disposed on a first side 5111 of the weakened or flexing portion 5103. In the illustrated embodiment, the barbed portion 609 includes a single row of barbs, but it should be understood that any suitable configuration of the barbs can be used, such as, for example, any configuration described in the present application. The weakened portion or flexing portion 5103 can be, for example, a cutout in the gripping member, a different material as compared to the remainder of the gripping member 608, or can take any other suitable form that allows the weakened or flexing portion 5103 to be weaker and/or more flexible than a remainder of the gripping member 608. However, in other embodiments, the weaker and flexible portion 5103 is omitted and the link 5107 and line 5105 described below are still able to flex the barbed portion as illustrated by FIGS. 51F-51H.

Referring to FIGS. 51F-51H, the gripper control mechanism 611 includes a line 5105 (e.g., a suture) and a push/pull link 5107 configured to receive the line 5105. For example, the push/pull link 5107 can be a catheter, a wire with a loop (as shown FIG. 25A), or any other link that is capable of receiving the line 5105 and pushing/pulling the gripping member 608. A first end 5125 of the line 5105 extends from a delivery device (e.g., any delivery device 601 described in the present application) and is removably attached to the gripping member 608 on a first side 5111 of the weakened or flexible portion 5103 at a first connection point A. The line 5105 also extends from the connection point A and is removably attached to the gripping member 608 on a second side 5113 of the weakened or flexible portion 5103 at a second connection point B. In addition, the line 5105 extends from the second connection point B and through push/pull link 5107.

Referring to FIG. 51F, the gripping member 608 is shown in an open position with a valve tissue member 820 disposed in an opening 614 between the gripping member 608 and a paddle (not shown). The gripping member can be moved to the open position by pulling on the line 5105. Referring to FIG. 51G, the link 5107 and line 5105 of the gripper control mechanism 611 is used to move the gripping member 608 in the direction X to the closed position and flex the portion 609 in the direction Y. The first end 5125 of the line 5105 is pulled in a direction Y, such that the first side 5111 of the gripping member 608 pivots or flexes about the weakened portion 5103. This flexing causes the barbed portion 609 to move in directions U and Y to a flexed position. Still referring to FIG. 51G, the link 5107 and the line 5105 are

moved such that the barbed portion 609 pierces the valve tissue 820 while the barbed portion is in the flexed position.

Referring to FIG. 51H, the line 5105 is released, which causes the first end 5111 of the gripping member 608 to pivot about the weakened or flexible portion 5103. This causes the barbed portion 609 to move through the valve tissue 820 in a direction D, which causes the barbed portion 609 the valve repair device to create a tensioning force on the valve tissue 820 in the direction D. After the gripping member 608 is secured to the valve tissue 820 (as shown in FIG. 51H), the link 5107 and the line 5105 are removed from the gripping member 608.

Referring to FIG. 52, in various embodiments, the gripping members 608 include a stretchable portion 5202 to allow for movement in the direction 5204. The movement in the direction 5204 allows for clean disengagement from the valve tissue. In some embodiments, the stretchable portion 5202 is configured to be moved such that the barbs 5102 exit the valve tissue in a direction substantially opposite the direction in which the barbs entered the valve tissue. Alternatively, the gripping members 608 can be otherwise extendable to allow for disengagement from the valve tissue without tearing the valve tissue. For example, as mentioned above, the hinge portions 5012 can be configured to allow the gripping portions 5014 of the gripping members 608 to be pulled in the direction 5204.

Referring to FIGS. 53A-53B, in certain embodiments, the gripping members 608 are made of flexible material. Referring to FIG. 53A, the valve repair device 602 is shown in a closed position and secured to valve tissue 820. Referring to FIG. 53B, the gripping members 608 are shown being moved by the gripper control mechanism 611 to remove the gripping members 608 from the valve tissue 820. In particular, movement of the gripper control mechanism 611 in the direction Y causes the gripping members 608 to peel back off of the valve tissue in the direction Z. The flexible material of the gripping members 608 allows for the peeling back of the gripping members 608 when removing the gripping members from the valve tissue 820. The peeling back of the gripping members 608 is advantageous because it helps the gripping members to pull out of the valve tissue 820 without damaging the valve tissue. In certain embodiments, the flexible gripping members 608 allows for the barbed portion 609 of the gripping members 608 to be removed from valve tissue in a direction substantially opposite the direction in which the barbs entered the valve tissue.

Referring to FIG. 54, in certain embodiments, the gripping members 608 are connected to each other by a separate biasing member 5410 (e.g., a spring) that is configured to maintain the gripping members in a desired position, such that, when the paddles 606 are in an open position, a width W exists between the paddles and the gripping members. The width W can be adjusted by engaging the gripping members 608 with the gripper control mechanism 611. That is, movement of the gripper control mechanism 611 into the delivery device in the direction Z will cause the biasing member 5410 to flex and the paddles to move in an inward direction X. Disengagement of the gripping members by the gripper control mechanism 611 will cause the biasing member 5410 to move the desired position (as shown in FIG. 54). The gripper control mechanism 611 can take any suitable form for controlling the gripping members 608, such as, for example, any form described in the present application. In addition, when the paddles 606 are moved to the closed position, the paddles will engage the gripping members 608, which will cause the biasing member to flex and the gripping members to move in an inward direction X. The paddles 608

can be moved from the open position to the closed position in any suitable manner, such as, for example, any manner described in the present application. While the various devices described in the present application refer to engaging and repairing the mitral valve, it should be understood that these devices can be used in repairing any other native valves (e.g., the tricuspid valve, the pulmonary valve, the aortic valve) or any other portion of the heart. In addition, it should be understood that various features of the various embodiments for the devices described herein can be used in combination with each other.

While the foregoing is a complete description of the preferred embodiments of the invention, various alternatives, modifications, and equivalents can be used. Moreover, it will be obvious that certain other modifications can be practiced within the scope of the appended claims.

The invention claimed is:

1. A valve repair device for repairing a native valve of a patient, the valve repair device comprising:

a base assembly comprising:

a shaft; and

a coupler movably attached to the shaft such that the coupler can be moved along the shaft;

a pair of paddles attached to the coupler of the base assembly, wherein the paddles are movable between an open position and a closed position;

a pair of gripping members attached to the base assembly, wherein the paddles and the gripping members are configured to attach to the native valve of the patient; and

a biasing member mechanically attached to the coupler of the base assembly, wherein the biasing member is configured to maintain the coupler in a position on the shaft that causes the paddles to be in the closed position when the valve repair device is attached to the native valve of the patient.

2. The valve repair system according to claim 1, wherein the gripping members comprise a barbed portion for attaching the gripping members to the native valve of a patient.

3. The valve repair device according to claim 1, further comprising a spacer element configured to close a gap in the native valve of the patient when the valve repair device is attached to the native valve.

4. The valve repair device according to claim 1, wherein each paddle of the pair of paddles comprises a latch member for attaching the paddles to a corresponding gripping member of the pair of gripping members when the paddles are in the closed position.

5. The valve repair device according to claim 1, wherein the gripping members are connected to each other by a biasing member that is configured to maintain the gripping members in a desired position.

6. The valve repair device according to claim 1, wherein the biasing member attached to the coupler is a spring.

7. A valve repair device for repairing a native valve of a patient, the valve repair device comprising:

a base assembly comprising:

a shaft having external threads; and

a coupler having internal threads that mate with external threads of the shaft such that the coupler can be moved along the shaft;

a pair of paddles attached to the coupler of the base assembly, wherein the paddles are movable between an open position and a closed position; and

a pair of gripping members attached to the base assembly, wherein the paddles and the gripping members are configured to attach to the native valve of the patient;

wherein movement of the coupler along the shaft causes the pair of paddles to move between the open position and the closed position; and

wherein the internal threads and the external threads are configured to prevent movement of the paddles from the closed position to the open position without rotating the shaft.

8. The valve repair system according to claim 7, wherein the gripping members comprise a barbed portion for attaching the gripping members to the native valve of a patient.

9. The valve repair device according to claim 7, wherein the pair of paddles are configured to flex upon being attached to the native valve of the patient.

10. The valve repair device according to claim 7, further comprising a spacer element configured to close a gap in the native valve of the patient when the valve repair device is attached to the native valve.

11. The valve repair device according to claim 7, wherein each paddle of the pair of paddles comprises a latch member for attaching the paddles to a corresponding gripping member of the pair of gripping members when the paddles are in the closed position.

12. The valve repair device according to claim 7, wherein each gripping member of the pair of gripping members is extendable in length to prevent tearing of the native valve of the patient when the gripping members are removed from the native valve.

13. The valve repair device according to claim 7, wherein the pair of gripping members comprises a flexible material such that the gripping members can peel back from tissue of the native valve when the gripping members are detached from the tissue of the native valve.

14. The valve repair device according to claim 7, wherein the gripping members are connected to each other by a biasing member that is configured to maintain the gripping members in a desired position.

15. A valve repair device for repairing a native valve of a patient, the valve repair device comprising:

a pair of paddles that are movable between an open position and a closed position;

a pair of gripping members coupled to the pair of paddles, wherein the paddles and the gripping members are configured to attach to the native valve of the patient; and

a biasing member mechanically coupled to the paddles to cause the paddles to be in the closed position when the valve repair device is attached to the native valve of the patient;

wherein the gripping members comprise a barbed portion for attaching the gripping members to the native valve of a patient.

16. The valve repair device according to claim 15, further comprising a spacer element configured to close a gap in the native valve of the patient when the valve repair device is attached to the native valve.

17. A valve repair device for repairing a native valve of a patient, the valve repair device comprising:

a pair of paddles that are movable between an open position and a closed position;

a pair of gripping members coupled to the pair of paddles, wherein the paddles and the gripping members are configured to attach to the native valve of the patient; and

a biasing member mechanically coupled to the paddles to cause the paddles to be in the closed position when the valve repair device is attached to the native valve of the patient;

a spacer element configured to close a gap in the native valve of the patient when the valve repair device is attached to the native valve.

18. A valve repair device for repairing a native valve of a patient, the valve repair device comprising: 5

a pair of paddles that are movable between an open position and a closed position;

a pair of gripping members coupled to the pair of paddles, wherein the paddles and the gripping members are configured to attach to the native valve of the patient; 10
and

a first biasing member mechanically coupled to the paddles to cause the paddles to be in the closed position when the valve repair device is attached to the native valve of the patient; 15

wherein the gripping members are connected to each other by a second biasing member that is configured to maintain the gripping members in a desired position.

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